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**TRANSCRIPT OF
PUBLIC HEARING ON REDISTRICTING
INDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
JULY 6, 2001**

**COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ROOM - FIRST FLOOR
385 NORTH ARROWHEAD AVENUE
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA**

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1 ELECTIONS, REAPPORTIONMENT, AND
2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE
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15 SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA
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1 SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA; FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2001

2 11:00 A.M.

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5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Good morning,
6 everyone. It's almost afternoon, but not quite. It
7 sure feels like it's afternoon from the weather.

8 I'm Assembly Member John Longville,
9 and this is the seventh in a series of hearings we've
10 been holding around the state. This feels a little
11 strange to be doing this in my hometown -- or home
12 area. I've been doing this in San Diego and Fresno
13 and Monterey and San Francisco and all over the
14 place. And here I look out and it's all people I
15 know -- or mostly. It's kind of a different
16 feeling.

17 I want to thank you for attending this
18 hearing. I have a brief prepared statement that we
19 like to start out with to make sure we don't miss any
20 of the legally important information. I want to make
21 sure everyone has and make sure everyone knows
22 everything they can do. So I'm going to read a
23 prepared statement here. And during the time I'm
24 doing that, I'm going to talk the way I normally do,
25 which is fairly rapidly, because the court reporter

1 will have a copy of this, and she won't have to take
2 it down while I'm saying it. However, you'll notice
3 when I'm not reading from the prepared statement, I'm
4 attempting to speak more slowly than I normally do.
5 This is because we've had a series of fires breaking
6 out at these hearings as the court reporters' fingers
7 are moving across the keyboard trying to keep up with
8 people who are speaking very rapidly. So in the
9 interest of public safety, I want to ask everyone
10 here, when you're presenting your testimony, to try
11 to slow down a little bit. And if you see us making
12 wild gestures to you like, you know, like -- or
13 something like that, or anything that you don't
14 understand, there's a good chance we're trying to
15 say, "Slow down a little." With that, here's the
16 prepared statement:

17 Thank you for attending this hearing
18 of the Assembly Committee on Elections,
19 Reapportionment, and Constitutional Amendments. The
20 California Assembly is committed to conducting a fair
21 and open redistricting process in which members of
22 the public are able to have a voice and an effective
23 role.

24 This is the seventh in a series of
25 hearings we are holding in various locations

1 throughout the state for the purpose of gathering
2 public testimony into the redistricting process. As
3 you know, we are all counted by the Census Bureau
4 every 10 years. Redistricting is the process by
5 which the lines for Assembly, Senate, Congressional,
6 and Board of Equalization districts are changed every
7 10 years after the decennial census. The 2000 census
8 occurred in April 2000, and we received the detailed
9 results of that census at the end of March this year.
10 The census shows us both that California has
11 experienced an overall increase in population and
12 that our population has shifted.

13 The most basic principle that guides
14 our redistricting is the requirement of one person,
15 one vote. What this means is in order to ensure that
16 each individual's vote carries the same weight, all
17 the districts we draw must have the same population.
18 After the 2000 census, because of the increase in
19 California's population, the ideal population for
20 Assembly and Senate Districts is 423,396, Assembly,
21 and 846,791, respectively.

22 To give you a sense of where the lines
23 are currently, as we undertake the process of
24 redistricting, we have on display maps of the
25 existing districts along the wall over there. As we

1 do that, there are certain requirements and
2 guidelines from the United States Constitution, the
3 federal Voting Rights Act, and the California
4 Constitution, as well as traditional redistricting
5 principles, that we pay attention to. One of the key
6 factors is communities of interest.

7 The concept of communities of interest
8 embraces the many different kinds of ties that bind
9 communities together. Communities of interest can
10 include geographical ties, political entities, and
11 factors such as socioeconomic status, the rural or
12 urban character of an area, transportation and media
13 infrastructures, community organizations, and shared
14 histories. The list is quite extensive, and we look
15 to you to help us identify the relevant communities
16 of interest within this region.

17 Please know that we also have a
18 website that contains information regarding
19 redistricting and the redistricting process. The
20 website address and information on how to offer
21 comments, receive notice of future hearings, and
22 submit redistricting plans is available in the
23 lobby.

24 As I mentioned, this is just one of a
25 series of redistricting hearings that the Assembly

1 Committee on Elections, Reapportionment, and
2 Constitutional Amendments is holding around the
3 state. Additionally, after proposed plans have been
4 submitted to the legislature, we plan to hold at
5 least two days of hearings in Sacramento. These
6 hearings will be linked by satellite -- or excuse
7 me -- linked by telephone cable line -- it works the
8 same -- to locations around the state to allow
9 interactive hearings.

10 We thank you for your participation
11 today, and hope that you will continue to participate
12 as the redistricting process moves along.

13 Before we take testimony, I would like
14 to introduce to you our committee members and other
15 members of the legislature. And I'm going to -- as
16 we do this, I'm going to actually start from the end
17 and just note the presence of the chief consultant
18 for the committee, Willie Guerro, who works out of my
19 Sacramento office. And then Assembly Member Bill
20 Leonard, who needs no introduction in this audience,
21 the dean of the Republican members of the assembly,
22 and close to being the senior member and a member of
23 the committee.

24 Appreciate, Assembly Member Leonard,
25 if you would have some remarks.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LEONARD: Thank you,
2 Mr. Chairman. I am so pleased that we're having one
3 of our regional hearings in San Bernardino where the
4 tremendous growth that we've had is important for the
5 assembly committee to hear from the people of the
6 Inland Empire their input on where the lines should be
7 drawn.

8 As you heard from the chairman, we
9 have the database from the Census Bureau of the
10 population and the population growth. What we do not
11 have, and the importance of this hearing, is to
12 identify communities of interest, to identify
13 neighborhoods, areas, and regions that were either
14 divided by the last plan and should not have been or
15 were united in the last plan and should have been and
16 need to stay united. Your input, your information,
17 and your testimony is critically important so that we
18 can draw good maps and that we can make them
19 available back to you as the chairman pointed out so
20 that we can again have your input before votes are
21 taken by the legislature.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
24 much.

25 And sitting immediately to my left

1 from your perspective our State Senator representing
2 the same area who is sitting on our panel today to
3 also get input.

4 Senator Nell Soto.

5 SENATOR SOTO: Thank you very much, John.
6 It's really nice to be here because I'm really
7 gratified at the attendance. I think it's
8 wonderful. Give yourselves a hand. It's great.
9 Yeah. Wonderful. It's really nice to see the
10 interest, and that everybody is aware, and how you
11 want to fight for your own little neighborhoods; and
12 I think that's wonderful. And I won't repeat
13 everything that Assemblyman Leonard has said or
14 Assemblyman Longville has said.

15 I think that it's common knowledge we
16 have to keep the communities of interest together. I
17 think that as the representative of the 32nd
18 district, I think that is pretty much well
19 represented as a community interest being together,
20 contiguous cities representing the same interests and
21 the same population and those same activities, the
22 same income, same more or less education levels, so I
23 think that we're all aware of what those communities
24 of interest are. And I'm here just to listen, to see
25 what people have to say, and hopefully that we will

1 just get some good idea of what everybody wants to do
2 and where everybody wants to be when the final lines
3 are drawn. We will get a better idea of what is
4 going to happen, I guess, in a few weeks after
5 Mr. Longville gets finished with his hearings.

6 But today we're here to listen and
7 hopefully keep the idea that communities of interest
8 should be and stay together.

9 And thank you again very much for
10 being here. I think it's wonderful that you all have
11 shown so much interest; and, again, we'll keep
12 going.

13 Thank you.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
15 much, Senator Soto. We appreciate your taking the
16 time to join the panel today.

17 We also have another local figure
18 here. We're blessed with a very local panel today.
19 Assembly Member Gloria Negrete McLeod who represents
20 the district that is immediately west of mine, and
21 includes the bulk of the west end of San Bernardino
22 County. And, of course, under the plan that was
23 implemented by the court 10 years ago, Assembly
24 Member McLeod's assembly seat and my assembly seat
25 make up Senator Soto's Senate seat because they're

1 what they call nested. Something that's only
2 happened that one time.

3 Assembly Member McLeod, could you
4 perhaps make some remarks.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MC LEOD: Yes.

6 Good morning to all. It's such a
7 wonderful view here that I see. I see all of the
8 community people, many of the people that I know
9 already, and it's just so wonderful to see everyone
10 here.

11 This is a very important hearing, and
12 I know that I've heard people say up and down the
13 state that they wish they could have one in each of
14 their towns, but that would be totally unable to
15 happen. I really would like to thank Assembly Member
16 Longville and the rest of the committee, Mr. Leonard,
17 for putting the time -- you don't know how time
18 consuming this was. True, it's a committee that we
19 have in the Assembly, but they have put an inordinate
20 amount of time so that you all can have input. And
21 so coming here to San Bernardino is very, very good.

22 I know, as I said, as I stated
23 earlier, that everybody wanted a meeting held in
24 their own various little towns; but that,
25 unfortunately, could not happen. And so we're very

1 glad that they did include San Bernardino. And while
2 I represent an area that is further west than any of
3 you here, and we, too, want to ensure that our
4 communities of interest stay intact where they need
5 to be.

6 And, so, again, thank you so much, and
7 I know that you're all going to give absolutely
8 wonderful input. Thank you.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
10 much.

11 And we have an additional extra
12 pleasure today in that you can tell by the audience,
13 first off, that we have a lot of interest in this.
14 But it's obvious the interest is even broader and
15 deeper and stronger than what we've seen in any other
16 hearing we've had in the state.

17 Joining us -- of course, for virtually
18 every person, I imagine, in this room it's not
19 necessary to introduce him, but it's considered
20 proper form even though you already know him, so I
21 have to make it a formal introduction -- our
22 Congressman: Working Joe Baca.

23 And this, as a formal legal matter,
24 this hearing is simply taking input which all will be
25 transcribed; and we will be making this available to

1 every member of the committee. And, also, everything
2 that's said today will be posted on that website that
3 I mentioned earlier, so there's a little lag time for
4 that. We have the first hearings already up, and it
5 takes a little bit of time, but we get them
6 eventually all up on the website.

7 And Congressman Baca, would you care
8 to -- we normally have a -- we normally have -- the
9 federal officials always invited to begin their
10 hearing from there, but from here would be
11 wonderful. We would appreciate it.

12 CONGRESSMAN BACA: Why don't I just follow
13 the state's protocol.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: No, no. We would
15 like to have you join us because as long as you're
16 willing to stay, we would appreciate your attendance.
17 However you want to do it is fine.

18 CONGRESSMAN BACA: Well, thank you very
19 much. And first of all, I'd like to say good morning
20 to members of the Assembly election committee and
21 reapportionment and constitutional amendment
22 committee, the elected appointed officials, honored
23 guests, and the Inland Empire friends as we can see
24 across the audience in many of the individuals that
25 are here right now.

1 I'm Congressman Joe Baca, and I'm
2 proud to be a representative serving the residents of
3 the 42nd Congressional District. I've been an active
4 in local politics affairs for over 20 years, and as
5 a trustee member for San Bernardino Valley College,
6 as a California assemblyman representing the 62nd
7 district, as a state Senator representing the 32nd
8 district, and today as your congressman representing
9 the 42nd Congressional District.

10 Every 10 years, after the release of a
11 new elective census data in California, the
12 legislature begins an inclusive process of
13 redistricting, that is, redrawing political district
14 lines for Assembly, Senatorial, and congressional
15 representation with the expectation that every
16 California resident will be fairly -- I state, it
17 will be fairly and equally represented in various
18 legislative bodies. It is with this process in mind
19 that I appear before you today.

20 I strongly support the one person, one
21 vote concept. I state, I strongly support the one
22 person, one vote concept. Every resident wants to be
23 comported their opportunity that their vote is
24 valuable. It's important, and it counts just as much
25 as everybody else. Never again do we want to

1 experience as someone in America experienced in last
2 election, and all of us know what happened in
3 Florida, with some votes counting, some votes not
4 counting, and even some voters being unduly
5 disenfranchised. I urge the committee to fully
6 enforce the Voting Rights Act, and understand and
7 respect our communities of interest, and not divide,
8 and I state, not divide or dilute our communities.
9 Finally, I urge the committee to ensure that the
10 testimony shared today is given value and meaning by
11 carefully considering its impact as you go along the
12 business of redrawing district lines.

13 I now have the privilege of sharing
14 with you my recommendation for shaping the 42nd
15 Congressional District. For those of you here, you
16 can see what the district is currently. The lines
17 are right now as it is, and it was done under the
18 masters plan 10 years ago, which I feel it was done
19 fairly and well represented by keeping communities of
20 interest. And I guess, as it moves back, most of you
21 can see that.

22 In determining the proposed district,
23 I've noted that the census data -- there is over 700
24 and some thousand residents in the current district
25 right now. Since the approval of representation

1 figures is 639, it is clear that I have to recommend
2 a district with 61,000 less population. So basically
3 what I've stated here is that I'm overpopulated by
4 over 61,000. I basically have over 700 and some
5 thousand, and really that does not even include the
6 undercount which could mean additional numbers that
7 could be in that district. In San Bernardino County,
8 I believe that we've undercounted somewhere along the
9 lines of 270 some thousand. And that also could
10 impact the districts, as well, right now, although
11 we're not taking those numbers into consideration;
12 we're only taking the numbers that the census data
13 has come up with at this point.

14 I look at the entire district, its
15 demographic boundaries, its ethnic makeup, its
16 housing patterns, its income levels, its educational
17 levels, and other communities of interest. The
18 proposed district lines -- has tight lines and smooth
19 edges. It is compact. It is contagious. There is
20 not the look of gerrymandering here. It is safe, it
21 is clean, and it's functional, and it's better to
22 serve our constituents.

23 With respect to political subdivision,
24 the proposed district avoid splitting geopolitical
25 lines, especially city boundaries and county lines.

1 Wherever possible, communities of interest are
2 retained with similarities in income levels,
3 educational levels, cultural language background,
4 employment, and economic patterns, and other mutual
5 and communities of interest.

6 The proposed district, as you can see
7 out here, beginning in the west end of the City of
8 Ontario from Euclid Avenue on the west end of
9 Riverside County lines in the south and the City of
10 Rancho Cucamonga, basically what I've asked is to
11 incorporate a portion of it but taking everything
12 south of the Foothill cities, incorporating all of
13 Fontana, all of the cities of Rialto, all of the
14 cities of Colton, the unincorporated areas called
15 Etiwanda, all of the unincorporated areas called
16 Muskoy, and then the cities of San Bernardino from
17 40th Street north to Riverside County line in the
18 south, from Palm Avenue and Highland in the east end
19 to Rialto city lines in the west.

20 The proposed district does not
21 include -- and currently it does have Grand Terrace
22 in there and it does have all of Rancho Cucamonga.
23 It would not include those portions. The district
24 would not have all of Rancho Cucamonga north of
25 Foothill or the City of Grand Terrace. It would take

1 that out of the district as it is right now, but it
2 would keep communities of interest and compact cities
3 together.

4 Well, the valley portion of the 42nd
5 district is generally considered to be blue collared
6 territory with accompanying challenges. Both Grand
7 Terrace and Rancho Cucamonga are considered by
8 influence -- by influence communities; and,
9 therefore, are reflective of different communities of
10 interest. Rancho Cucamonga has more in common with
11 Upland and Claremont than with Rialto and Fontana.
12 Grand Terrace relates better with Loma Linda and
13 Redlands than with Ontario and Etiwanda. The
14 proposed 42nd Congressional District is a product of
15 data and analysts collaboration with community
16 organizations, individual leaders, consultation with
17 experts in the field. While there is a clear
18 proposal or balanced proposal, I'm optimistic that
19 the committee and the California legislature will
20 fully realize their historical records of community
21 representation in the Inland Empire.

22 We fully agree with the need to retain
23 our historical communities of interest. We will not
24 seek to turn back the clock to less enlightened
25 times. We will respect the needs of community

1 leaders if we are ever to return to our days of the
2 Inland Empire economic stability and city growth.

3 I want to thank the members of the
4 panel for allowing me to make this presentation
5 today, and I welcome the opportunity to work in the
6 future with each and every one of you with issues
7 that are important to California. And basically what
8 I've done now is describe what I feel is what the
9 district should be by keeping communities of interest
10 intact basically stating that the masters plan came
11 up with an original plan that kept communities of
12 interest. And we basically have kept them in there
13 without dividing individuals based on ethnicity,
14 based on cultural, but keeping it all in compliance
15 with what the law has indicated right now, and not
16 dividing the districts.

17 I think the district that has come up
18 with the 42nd Congressional District also follows the
19 lines of what I believe could be one for the 62nd
20 Assembly District along with the Senatorial
21 districts, and keeping those districts in compliance
22 with what the law is and keeping us all together as
23 far as communities of interest.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
25 much, Congressman Baca. We appreciate you taking the

1 time to be here today.

2 CONGRESSMAN BACA: And I've submitted it in
3 writing, as well, to have what I've outlined right
4 now, and as you see the map that I have right now.
5 And this is just an old map since the new maps have
6 not been drawn yet, unless you have some that I don't
7 know of.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: None yet. We're
9 not actually starting our drawing process until after
10 we finish the hearings. In fact, until after we cut
11 off public input. We've set a date of August 15th.
12 So up until that point we'll be trying to analyze
13 data, but we won't put anything onto a paper until
14 then, except the current districts and things we're
15 showing people to get input and get an idea of what
16 they want. So it will be a little bit yet, but
17 getting close.

18 CONGRESSMAN BACA: With that, you'll have to
19 forgive me because I have to leave; I've not had
20 opportunity to spend too much time at home since I've
21 had my operation.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: We understand.
23 Everybody knows Congressman Baca is an extraordinary
24 baseball player, and he recently was taken bowling
25 for the first time and threw his arm out pitching.

1 Is that what the story was?

2 CONGRESSMAN BACA: That's correct. I wanted
3 to live my fantasy. It's like most of us that played
4 Little League, and, Bill, you played Little League
5 didn't you, Bill?

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LEONARD: A long time ago.

7 CONGRESSMAN BACA: A long time ago. And
8 remember collecting baseball cards, that we said we
9 wanted to have a fantasy of -- we always collected
10 baseball cards, and a lot of times we wanted to see
11 our own cards in a baseball card. So I finally got
12 my own baseball card, and it has a Dodger uniform on
13 here. So I finally fulfilled my fantasy. But I
14 haven't heard it --

15 MS. SOTO: But you broke your elbow doing it.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: But the question
17 is: Can you get enough of them for all of our
18 bicycle spokes?

19 We have made it our practice in these
20 hearings to recognize local elected officials, as
21 well, to present remarks at the beginning. I have
22 more than normal; I think I have seven. So I'm going
23 to ask if our local elected officials can try to keep
24 in mind that we have a bunch of other people waiting
25 to testify, and I know local electives have gotten

1 used to that, dealing with time limits. So not
2 setting an exact limit here, I'm just saying can you
3 try and keep it short. We would appreciate it.

4 Oh, eight. Thank you.

5 We have also a wonderful thing to
6 maybe surprise someone who is here today. Is there
7 anybody in the audience here, if you can raise your
8 hand, who does not have with them right now a cell
9 phone? Anybody who does not have a cell phone with
10 you right now? Okay. All right. Now, any of you
11 who do not have one and would like to have a cell
12 phone, I would -- we'll give one away here today, if
13 you'd like, and here it is. Anybody who has a cell
14 phone and would like to give it away, just check your
15 cell phone now and make sure it's turned on and set
16 to ring, preferably with some little musical tune.

17 (Ms. Soto's cellular phone rings.)

18 SENATOR SOTO: Oh, wonderful.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Who's your staff
20 person in the lobby trying to get your attention? I
21 know. I know. Well, now you know how it works.
22 Okay. That was a practice run. So you just set it
23 to silent, okay, set it to silent or turn it off.
24 Either way. But we appreciate it.

25 With that, I'm going to start with our

1 local electives, and the first one I have is Mayor
2 Pro Tem Greg Pettis from the City of Cathedral City.
3 Greg.
4 MAYOR PRO TEM PETTIS: One second.
5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Okay. That's
6 okay. We'll take him right after we take Gary
7 Bosworth, Council Member, City of Desert Hot Springs,
8 if he's ready. Okay. Come on down.
9 And I'm going to read off the next
10 couple names after that so people can be prepared.
11 I've got Council Member Bosworth, and then we'll take
12 the Mayor Pro Tem Pettis, and then I'm going to have
13 Mayor Valles and Mayor Alexander. So you can kind of
14 be prepared with the order, and I'll give more names
15 as we go along here now.
16 COUNCILMAN BOSWORTH: Is it possible to bring
17 that map up so I can point to it?
18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Absolutely. I'm
19 sure someone from staff can bring it up and hold it
20 if need be.
21 COUNCILMAN BOSWORTH: Okay. Thank you. I'm
22 Councilman Gary Bosworth. I also am on the -- from
23 Desert Hot Springs. I'm also on the Mountain
24 Conservancy for the Coachella Valley.
25 What I'm going to do is I'm going to

1 do a little technical analysis of what we've looked
2 at in our area as far as redistricting. Don't mind
3 if I'm a little nervous. I'm used to being on that
4 side of the microphone.

5 What we looked at very basically was
6 communities of interest throughout the low desert,
7 and we looked at this pink outline, is what mainly
8 we'll be looking at here. This is Imperial County,
9 and this is Riverside County up here.

10 What we did is -- what in our area has
11 the most and what is it most like? Our culture, note
12 throughout this, it's desert, it's rural. All those
13 aspects bring it together.

14 Also it's ringed on this edge right
15 here by mountains. So all this area is contiguous
16 area that's commonly called the low desert. Both the
17 Coachella Valley and the Imperial County make up the
18 low desert.

19 Now, we looked at this area, and we
20 looked at the population. Now, unfortunately, the
21 population of those two areas are just a spit over
22 what is the optimum amount for the AD district of
23 436,000. So we tried to look at what areas in that
24 district was most alike, and that's what this pink
25 boundary does right here. What we did is there's a

1 little section here on the southern edge that we
2 clipped off. Now, the reason we did that is because
3 the other area is where the agriculture is the most
4 rural aspects, the most desert. It's also -- well
5 that area there is not.

6 We've also looked at, from a
7 historical viewpoint is that NAFTA is actually of
8 very historical significance to this area in that
9 coming down from here up through here, which is our
10 well-known NAFTA corridor of Highway 86 into I-10,
11 that actual area was first opened up by Europeans
12 back in the 1500s as the first land route commerce
13 into the California area. And that's been open ever
14 since.

15 It's also along that same corridor
16 that right now we have several Native American tribes
17 that have reservations because they used that
18 corridor long before Europeans ever arrived. And, as
19 a matter of fact, we have here, starting in this
20 area, Agua Cliente reservation. Here in the Palm
21 Springs, Rancho Cathedral City area up in Desert Hot
22 Springs, the Old Mission Creek reservation. Down
23 here in Indio we have the Cabazon reservation. The
24 Torres-Martinez, which actually travels underneath
25 Salton Sea, as many people are aware of, into

1 Imperial County. St. Augustine reservation. Down
2 here we have the Fort Yuma reservation, which
3 connects right up to port of entry on the Mexican
4 border. There's ancestral areas to these areas, all
5 extended well into Imperial County, while the central
6 areas over here extended along the river all the way
7 up to Blythe. So that has a very long historical
8 significance to Native Americans.

9 As a matter of fact, when you look at
10 it, the only part of this area that does not have
11 Native American area is this one area that has been
12 cut out in the Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage -- no, Palm
13 Desert and La Quinta area, okay. So we've looked at
14 that, and that follows that boundary.

15 And also we looked at from what areas
16 is this most like, and we have here a comparison of
17 that area that we've taken out looking at age
18 groupings and ethnic characteristics, and we find out
19 that while this area here that we include is almost
20 60 percent Hispanic, only about 20 percent Anglo,
21 this area here is actually the exact reverse. Which
22 is what you would expect since it does not meet the
23 other communities of interest with the agriculture
24 and those things in there. Down there is the exact
25 reverse. And when we looked at it, that area is

1 actually most like eastern San Diego County, which is
2 currently the 75th AD. It actually matches that on
3 property values, ethnicities, and all those things
4 like that.

5 Even when you look at age groupings,
6 the area that we have included has essentially 50
7 percent more youngish people under 18 than the area
8 that has been excluded.

9 Now, I could go on and on about this,
10 but I want to keep it short. There will be several
11 other people speaking, so I've given out information
12 here that explains this in more detail. So I think
13 that will conclude it for now. Okay.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
15 much, Council Member. We appreciate it. Is that a
16 map you're leaving with us?

17 COUNCILMAN BOSWORTH: The next speaker is
18 going to refer to it, too.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: We will then have
20 the map left with us?

21 COUNCILMAN BOSWORTH: Yeah.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Oh, okay. Thank
23 you.

24 Mayor Pro Tem Pettis.
25 And as I mentioned earlier, I've got

1 Mayor Valles, Mayor Alexander, and -- let's see. I'm
2 blanking on whether Mayor -- Mayor Gwen Norton-Perry,
3 yes. I don't remember whether you hold it -- I think
4 she's still mayor. I believe so.

5 Mayor Pro Tem Pettis, you're up.

6 MAYOR PRO TEM PETTIS: Thank you, Chairman
7 Longville. I want to welcome all the members of the
8 legislature. Those of you that are coming back home,
9 we welcome you. It's nice to have you here, and
10 those who traveled, we appreciate you being here.

11 My name is Greg Pettis. I'm the Mayor
12 Pro Tem of the City of Cathedral City, also a member
13 of the Regional Council for the Southern California
14 Associations of Government.

15 One of the things that I want to
16 speak to and why we've left this map up is because we
17 are concerned about the possibility of Imperial
18 County and Riverside County being split. Both of
19 these counties are part of SCAG, part of the areas of
20 planning, part of those areas that we're dealing with
21 on an ongoing basis as it relates to transportation,
22 NAFTA, Southwest Compact, immigrant lives, all of
23 those issues that we as a planning organization are
24 dealing with. And I certainly don't want to give the
25 impression that I'm speaking for SCAG, but as a

1 regional council member for that portion of the area,
2 it is a concern of mine.

3 Council Member Bosworth spoke somewhat
4 on the Native American, the historical significance
5 of the area, and I'll elaborate a little bit on that,
6 and then talk a little bit more about why we are
7 proposing that the southern portion of the district
8 be cut off and put into another area.

9 As was mentioned, the first commerce
10 trade route to California was established in the
11 1500s by Spain coming up through what is now commonly
12 referred to as low desert through present day
13 Imperial County and the Coachella Valley. This trade
14 route has stayed in existence essentially ever since,
15 right up to and including the present day with a
16 well-known NAFTA economic corridor that travels up
17 Highway 86 and along I-10 towards the rest of
18 Southern California, basically the very route
19 traveled by the Spaniards about 450 years ago. This
20 economic corridor was so valuable that Spain fought
21 the Yuma Indians in 1781 while Mexico fought the
22 Kamia Indians in both 1882 and 1826 to keep this
23 trade route open. All of these battles happened in
24 what is now Imperial County. This natural trade
25 route was almost certainly used by the Indians for

1 several hundred years before the Spaniards.

2 This trade route over the centuries
3 explains why there's such a large Hispanic population
4 spread along this corridor. It also explains the
5 large number of Indian tribes along the same corridor
6 Mr. Bosworth showed on the map.

7 Riverside County, the Agua Caliente
8 reservation, Cabazon reservation, 29 Palms Indians in
9 and around the City of Coachella, the Old Mission
10 Creek reservation in and around Desert Hot Springs,
11 St. Augustine reservation, the Torres-Martinez
12 reservation, which straddles both counties of
13 Imperial and Riverside. All of these have ancestral
14 grounds.

15 In Imperial County, Fort Yuma
16 reservation that runs along eastern Riverside County
17 all the way to the Mexican border next to an
18 established port of entry. The ancestral grounds of
19 the Yuma Indians along with the related Quechan
20 Indians along Blythe and into the Imperial County.

21 The historical ancestral grounds of
22 the Kamia Indians are throughout central and extend
23 towards the western corridor up into Imperial
24 County. NAFTA certainly has bound these two counties
25 together like nothing we have seen in our present

1 time, but certainly history shows that it always has
2 been bound together. We believe that the southern
3 portion of Riverside County that we've outlined here,
4 which are the Cities of Palm Desert, La Quinta,
5 Indian Wells, and the unincorporated area of Bermuda
6 Dunes, are the portions of this district that because
7 of the populationships that have happened in the
8 Coachella Valley should be the ones, based on your
9 guidelines of communities of interest, should be the
10 ones that we, unfortunately, would need to lose in
11 order to get the population. These are communities
12 whose economic base is drastically different than the
13 rest of what is currently the 80th. The racial
14 diversity, ethnic diversity is vastly different in
15 those communities than the rest of the valley. Those
16 communities make up the significant portion of one
17 school district, so in terms of school boundaries
18 there's less of an interruption.

19 We feel that this district
20 representing the new 80th or whatever number that it
21 may come to afterwards, we sort of believe it is the
22 first Assembly District in the state and not the
23 last. But we believe this will best serve your
24 guidelines and best serve the residents of the
25 Coachella and Imperial Valleys and the Palos Verdes

1 Valleys with Blythe.

2 Thank you very much.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
4 much. We appreciate your taking the time, as well,
5 to come and testify today, Mr. Pettis.

6 Next I will have Mayor Judith Valles
7 of the City of San Bernardino; followed by Mayor Bill
8 Alexander, Mayor of Rancho Cucamonga, and Mayor Pro
9 Tem Gwen Norton-Perry of Chino Hills. I was blanking
10 out on whether Chino Hills rotated or elected a mayor
11 separately. I knew that she had been mayor, so
12 wanted to double-check.

13 Mayor Valles, thank you for being
14 here.

15 MAYOR VALLES: Thank you, Chairman Longville,
16 and thank you, all of you. And I know that you have
17 a tremendous task before you, but I want to thank you
18 for holding this meeting in the City of San
19 Bernardino. As you can see, we take a great deal of
20 interest in the decisions you are going to make.

21 And I'll tell you just a little bit
22 about myself. Besides being the mayor of the City of
23 San Bernardino, I also sit on the Regional Council of
24 SCAG, which is the Southern California Association of
25 Governments, for those of you who don't know what

1 that is; and even some of us who sit on it sometimes
2 wonder about that, but that's another story. And
3 also on a subcommittee of SCAG, which is the
4 community and economic housing development committee.
5 But I was also honored to be named the chair of the
6 visioning committee for all of Southern
7 California, to discuss the different issues that are
8 really impacting this growth that we are experiencing
9 not only in Southern California but certainly in the
10 Inland Empire, which is why many of us are here.

11 And I'll share with you a little
12 speech that I've given not only to state -- yes? I'm
13 talking too fast?

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Too fast. I'm
15 sorry.

16 MAYOR VALLES: I will share a presentation --
17 or it's more like my canned speech that I make when I
18 speak to state legislators and to federal legislators
19 that whatever decisions are made at the state level,
20 at the federal level, you must be mindful of the
21 impact that your decisions have on your cities, which
22 is our cities, and I represent the largest one in the
23 County of San Bernardino. Whatever decisions you
24 make, you must be mindful of the impact that that
25 will have.

1 I was interested in listening to
2 the -- I guess the components or what makes up
3 communities of interest, and you read them too fast,
4 but I did make some notes of some that I know have a
5 critical impact on the City of San Bernardino when we
6 are trying to define communities of interest. I
7 picked up on three of them. The others also impact
8 the city. I picked up on the geographics, the
9 geographical location, and transportation. Very,
10 very critical communities of interest, especially for
11 the corridor along the 10, in light of the fact that
12 we are working with the Alameda corridor east and
13 trying desperately to solve our transportation
14 problems. Of course, that's important -- and I see
15 that as a community of interest, to keep that
16 intact.

17 Another community of interest that was
18 also mentioned, and I wish I had written all of them
19 down because I wanted to address each one of them.
20 Our shared history. The shared history that we have,
21 not only as the City of San Bernardino, but as the
22 development of two separate counties, and communities
23 of interest also involve counties and county
24 boundaries.

25 I would not like to believe that the

1 City of San Bernardino is going to be split between
2 two counties, although, at the state level, I know
3 it's one legislator, but I gotta tell you, it creates
4 a problem for your local elected officials.

5 Communities of interest are the cities
6 that you represent. And I ask that you be very
7 mindful of that. The impact that that will have on
8 the cities politically. It is said -- I don't have a
9 map, and I know you appreciate that, but there's many
10 benefits to be drawn. Let's say if the city were
11 represented by many different legislators and they
12 all took a piece of it, that's great. You've got a
13 lot of votes in the state legislature. That's based
14 on the assumption that everyone gets along. But then
15 we know that partisan politics comes in and rears its
16 ugly head; and, quite frankly, as a non-partisan
17 elected official, it kind of puts you in a tough
18 position. Be mindful of decisions that you make with
19 your communities of interest and the cities that you
20 represent. Transportation, geographical, and our
21 shared history is something that I want you to
22 consider when you're making your deliberations.

23 Thank you very much.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
25 much, Mayor Valles. We appreciate it.

1 And I neglected -- I said I wasn't
2 going to do this, to myself, earlier, and I neglected
3 to introduce -- we have two additional members who
4 have joined us on the panel. Starting again at the
5 same end I started out originally from, Riverside
6 County, Assembly Member Dennis Hollingsworth, one of
7 the new members of the class who represents --
8 Dennis -- the area that's Corona along that area and
9 down into Orange County, as well.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH: Yeah.
11 Western Riverside and northern San Diego County.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: I'm sorry. San
13 Diego County. Were there any comments you wished to
14 share?

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH: No. I'm just
16 here to listen to the input. Thank you, John.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: We appreciate it.

18 And also from Riverside County --
19 okay. Wait a moment. All right. We had with us,
20 and he may be returning, but even if he was only able
21 to be here for a moment, I want to note the presence
22 of Assembly Member Rod Pacheco. And he may be
23 returning momentarily, and if he does, I'll introduce
24 him to make sure he can share any remarks.
25 Next I have Mayor Bill Alexander from

1 Rancho Cucamonga, and Mayor Alexander will be
2 followed by Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Norton-Perry of
3 Chino Hills.

4 MAYOR ALEXANDER: Well, I thought I was being
5 original by providing the lady that's taking the
6 notes today with a copy of this, too, so it will be
7 read, but understand that she has a copy of that.
8 And I was a little concerned that I'd have to change
9 the beginning from "Good Morning," but I won't have
10 to.

11 Thank you very much all for coming
12 today, and everybody that's here.

13 Good morning. My name is Bill
14 Alexander. I am the mayor of the City of Rancho
15 Cucamonga. Having served seven years as mayor and 12
16 years on the city council, and having been a resident
17 of western San Bernardino County since the '60s, I
18 think I have a little bit of knowledge of the
19 community and what is going on. I've also recently
20 retired as a fire captain from the City of Ontario
21 after 33 years with that organization.

22 As mayor, I am active on the SANBAG
23 Board, Vice Chairperson of Metrolink, a member of
24 Omnitrans, and other regional organizations. Through
25 all this time and service in this area, I feel I

1 truly have an understanding of the region and its
2 issues and challenges and how it works together.

3 I'm here today to strongly encourage
4 you to consider retaining the current 32nd Senatorial
5 boundaries that run from San Bernardino westerly to
6 Pomona. This area enjoys a lot in common. There's a
7 strong community of interest among these cities. The
8 communities of the district have a history which lend
9 themselves together.

10 Pomona has long been considered a part
11 of the west end communities. For years, the local
12 newspaper covering the western half of the district
13 was published in Pomona. Through time -- although
14 time has passed, the communities still view
15 themselves as a greater whole. The public safety
16 personnel look at each other for mutual aid and see
17 the natural connection the communities have
18 together.

19 In addition to their common history,
20 the region shares geographic orientation. This
21 district is the west and east transit corridor of the
22 region. It also is the gateway into San Bernardino
23 County from Orange and L.A. Counties. Because we
24 share the east/west transit orientation, we share the
25 unique issues and projects which it brings.

1 As a single city, we cannot solve the
2 challenges; however, collectively, we are working
3 together to tackle and find solutions. A few of the
4 regional transportation issues we are working on
5 include those such as the Alameda corridor,
6 construction of the I-210, truck lanes, and the Mag
7 Lev proposal. A number of the cities in the district
8 has also worked to complete a multimodal trail system
9 along the old Pacific Electric Railroad Line that
10 will allow our residents to traverse along a 21-mile
11 corridor among our various cities. It spans from
12 Claremont to Rialto.

13 We also work together on economic
14 development attraction and retention in our region.

15 In the legislative arena, we work
16 closely as communities with Senator Soto. Many of us
17 have met monthly to discuss legislative issues and
18 proposals and working jointly to express positions on
19 proposed legislations. We have many issues in common
20 as it relates to growth, local government, financing,
21 transportation, et cetera.

22 Being together in one district allows
23 us the collective power of working together on the
24 issues that are so common to all of us. Together we
25 are better able to represent the interests of our

1 citizens and businesses. It makes a lot of sense to
2 continue the relationship with each other;
3 therefore, I encourage you to positively consider the
4 continuing of the district as it exists.

5 Thank you for your consideration of
6 these comments.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
8 much, Mayor Alexander. We appreciate it.

9 And next, Mayor Pro Tem Gwen
10 Norton-Perry of Chino Hills, who will be followed by
11 Lake Elsinore Unified School District Board Member
12 Sonja Wilson.

13 MAYOR PRO TEM NORTON-PERRY: Thank you. Good
14 afternoon, Chairman Longville and Senator Leonard.
15 Thank you for the opportunity to present this to you
16 today. And I also want to welcome our two
17 legislatives here today, Senator Nell Soto and
18 Assembly Member McLeod, and thank you to Assembly
19 Member Hollingsworth for coming, as well, today.

20 We appreciate the opportunity to
21 address before you the issues at hand. Certainly
22 it's momentous for you, and we hope that you
23 certainly take into account --

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: A little slower.

25 MAYOR PRO TEM NORTON-PERRY: Okay. You know

1 what? It's a female thing, isn't it, John? What is
2 it?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Actually, the
4 truth is --

5 MAYOR PRO TEM NORTON-PERRY: We just think
6 faster. We get things done. You guys never notice
7 what we're doing.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: I'm actually
9 using the court reporter as an excuse. The truth is,
10 as everyone knows, we state and federal officials are
11 slower than everybody else in comprehending things.
12 So the truth is we're just asking you to speak a
13 little slower so we can understand.

14 MAYOR PRO TEM NORTON-PERRY: Okay. Sorry.
15 I'll speak in forked tongue then, or I'll try to do
16 something.

17 Nevertheless, I just want to thank you
18 for allowing us this opportunity to bring this before
19 you today. I don't know -- as it relates to your
20 definition "communities of interest," I don't know
21 that we necessarily fall into that category, although
22 we're an interested community, and let me leave it at
23 that.

24 I would like to give you, if I will,
25 some demographics on our community. I represent the

1 City of Chino Hills. We were incorporated in 1991.
2 I've served on that community's city council as the
3 first mayor and have been reelected since then. As
4 several other electives that have spoken before you,
5 I, too, represent several of those governing boards.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Gwen, I see
7 smoke at the keyboard.

8 MAYOR PRO TEM NORTON-PERRY: Okay. I'll try
9 to talk slower, John. That is hard.

10 As it relates to some of our
11 demographics, our population currently, we're one of
12 the fastest growing communities in the Inland Empire,
13 as I'm sure you all know. We're right now just under
14 70,000. Our median age is 32 years old. Of course,
15 I'm well under that. Those under the age of 18 are
16 approximately 32 percent of our community. We have a
17 large percentage of family households. 85.2 percent
18 of our community are family households. Our average
19 household size is three and a half percent -- excuse
20 me, three and a half. Three and a half percent of
21 those -- those who are owner occupied; we're very
22 proud of that, as well. 84.8 percent of our
23 community are owner occupied.

24 And a couple other factors we're not
25 real proud of, as our legislators may know, and I

1 think we've spoken to you, John, about this numerous
2 times, are the factors we have with regard to our
3 sales tax redevelopment agencies. Certainly we're
4 one of those communities that were opposed to
5 Prop 13. We do not have a redevelopment agency, nor
6 will we ever have that opportunity to do so.

7 Sales tax is very, very difficult to
8 get in our community. We're very much a bedroom
9 city, a bedroom community. We rely heavily upon
10 developer-oriented assessments, as well as
11 development in our community. Once that dries up,
12 certainly we will be facing numerous problems. Our
13 annual sales tax per capita is 29.28. As it relates
14 to other communities related to us in Chino, it's
15 134. So you can see that we've obviously got
16 problems.

17 The reason I bring that before you
18 today is that I think it's just important. I know
19 you're looking, obviously, at a variety of different
20 factors. Certainly a partisanship shouldn't come
21 before you, but I think that demographics should play
22 a part in it. We're also an area that is strangely
23 and curiously affected by a variety of numerous
24 county issues. We are within the four corners region
25 of Southern California. We're bounded by Riverside,

1 Orange County, Los Angeles County. The majority of
2 our traffic is commuter traffic. We've obviously got
3 a variety of transportation issues. I know it's
4 very, very difficult, not only from a federal level
5 but also from a state level, to represent our
6 community. And we recognize the problems that our
7 legislators have on that, and we look for some relief
8 in that respect.

9 Nevertheless, just to conclude, I
10 think, again, our city council has not taken an
11 official stance on this issue as of yet. And I know,
12 Senator Soto, we are meeting with you later today.
13 We have several significant issues that are facing
14 our community that I know that have divided us within
15 our Senate and Assembly District currently.
16 Hopefully those can be taken into account, not as
17 partisan or other issues, just simply a sum that,
18 hopefully, our demographics need to be looked at, if
19 that needs to be considered in the factor and one
20 that I hope you will respect.

21 The concerns that we have in the City
22 of Chino Hills, we're a growing community and one
23 that is, obviously, here, look at partisanship.
24 We're heavily Republican, but I don't think that
25 should play a part in it. But I think that the

1 factor needs to be just our demographics, the
2 changing community where we're at. And we're one of
3 those communities that seems to be kind of like the
4 stepsister of any county, and no one really wants to
5 claim us. But we're proud to be part of San
6 Bernardino County; we're proud of the representation
7 we've had. And wherever it may go from here, we look
8 forward to continuing to receive, obviously, a
9 stellar level of representation, and look to your
10 concerted efforts in making sure our community is
11 well represented, our demographics are considered.

12 And I'll try to slow down from here
13 now, John, and thank you.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
15 much, Mayor Pro Tem. We appreciate it.

16 Next I have Lake Elsinore Unified
17 School Board Member Sonja Wilson who also identifies
18 herself as a member of the Lake Elsinore NAACP, and
19 then immediately after will be Mayor Pro Tem Gerald
20 DuBois from the City of Ontario.

21 MS. WILSON: Hello gentlemen and ladies. I
22 feel very honored to be here. Sonja Wilson, 24 year
23 school board member, Lake Elsinore Unified School
24 District and president right now of NAACP Lake
25 Elsinore.

1 And Kevin Jeffries, who's Republican,
2 emailed me, and, said, "Sonja, you need to get
3 interested in this." And, for the record, I am
4 Democrat, but we get along.

5 And I think it's important for all of
6 us to recognize that you need to be very mindful of
7 Lake Elsinore. Don't chop us up. A lot of people
8 say we are stepchildren, but we get along
9 beautifully. We just had multiple graduations at the
10 stadium, which was over 15,000 people that came
11 there. Canyon Lake -- in the school boundaries, we
12 cover 240 acres and -- acres. Excuse me. Miles.
13 240 miles, and we have 17,500 children that we
14 represent now, and we're now at just about 22
15 schools. And we all get along. Our parents are very
16 involved in what goes on in our community. We have
17 the parades. We have a lot of things that we're
18 working cooperatively with. And I just really wanted
19 to have a voice because nobody -- when I talked to
20 everybody -- I talked to my superintendent this
21 morning -- we're having a classified workshop at our
22 district -- and she says, "Where are you going?"

23 And I said, "It's important that
24 somebody speaks up, somebody represents."
25 When I brought this to the NAACP last

1 week at our meeting, nobody seemed to know it was
2 going on, and I know this has been covered because I
3 have been up and down the State of California in
4 training with the NAACP.

5 I'm also the western regional director
6 for my sorority, and I am a member. I mean, I was
7 raised right here in San Bernardino, so I know this
8 area well. I have 24 grandchildren, six children,
9 two step, and six great grandchildren all over the
10 place. Some in Yucaipa, some in Riverside. So I
11 know all these back roads. And I know how important
12 it is that we get good streets.

13 I'm also, as I call myself, octaroon
14 because I have all nationalities. So I know one day
15 what it is to be -- you're a Creole this day, and now
16 you're black, and now they're saying one percent
17 doesn't allow you to be black anymore. So I said,
18 "Wow. Okay. We're other." And I check every --
19 because I have a Spanish grandmother and a black
20 great great grandmother and I'm Indian 18 percent, so
21 I know what that's like.

22 But history is there, and we are all
23 part of history. But we want to get along. And our
24 black folks don't always come out, especially in Lake
25 Elsinore, so I have found that I think I am the

1 spokesperson for both -- of Lake Elsinore of late.
2 I'm also on the RTA, so we do a lot of meeting with
3 Jeff Green and Andrea. She's now with Hollingsworth.
4 But we met with them. So we're dealing with the
5 transportation corridor with Pam Brimley, Mayor Pro
6 Tem.

7 So I just want you guys to be mindful,
8 and if you need anybody to contact to help, to look
9 at what's going on, don't mind putting my name in the
10 arena. And I will get our district boundaries and
11 everything for you guys to look at that so that
12 you're -- because we are so, so, so involved
13 legislatively.

14 And, Dennis, you know that, we're all
15 over the place, and our people do care. Lorraine
16 Watts is ill right now or she would probably be
17 here. Mary Venerable. A lot of them are just not up
18 to it, and so I just took it upon myself to come here
19 and say, "Hey, I need to put our name on the
20 record."

21 But thank you. Thank you very much.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
23 much for taking the time to be here today. We
24 appreciate it.

25 And next, Mayor Pro Tem Gerald DuBois

1 from the City of Ontario followed by Council Member
2 Josie Gonzales from Fontana. And give a heads up;
3 we're getting close to the end of the electeds. I
4 will then have a council member from Montclair, Bill
5 Ruh, and I believe close with Loma Linda Mayor Floyd
6 Peterson, and then we go into the next segment.

7 You have it, Mayor Pro Tem.

8 MAYOR PRO TEM DU BOIS: Thank you,
9 Mr. Longville, and good morning -- oop, good
10 afternoon. It's a pleasure for me to come and
11 testify on behalf of the City of Ontario today.

12 It's very important to the City of
13 Ontario to have our issues brought forward, being in
14 the 32nd Senatorial District represented by Senator
15 Soto, and also in the Assembly District represented
16 by Assemblywoman McLeod.

17 The City of Ontario is a city
18 populated 158,007 on the latest census count. We are
19 the second largest city in the 32nd Senatorial
20 District. Our issues are, as Mayor Valles, said,
21 they're regional issues. We don't look at the City
22 of Ontario as being isolated; we look at the City of
23 Ontario as being a component part in all regional
24 issues of the Inland Empire. And that falls in the
25 guise of the Alameda corridor east, all of our

1 transportation corridors, our issues with
2 socioeconomical growth in the City of Ontario. Just
3 recently we have doubled our city in size with the
4 annexation of 8,200 acres to the south, which gives
5 us probably the distinction within the State of
6 California. There aren't very many cities that have
7 done that of late.

8 We're looking at a number of ours.
9 Our primary issue is being and maintaining the
10 economic generator for the San Bernardino County,
11 having the benefit of having an international airport
12 in our city and having a lot of economic growth
13 because we have a lot of vacant land and wonderful
14 transportation corridors cutting through our city.

15 We look at our city broken up into
16 three components, like -- as I said before, our
17 residential, our economic, our transportation
18 destination, and our new city being created to the
19 south which we call the Colonies of South Ontario.

20 Taking the City of Ontario and even
21 thinking about sectioning it up into different
22 district guidelines or sectioning up the city in some
23 way, it's very difficult for Ontario because our
24 residential base is on the west side of a
25 110-year-old city. We are cut down the middle with

1 Euclid Avenue, and so we're broke up into two
2 congressional districts with Congressman Baca on one
3 side, Congressman Miller on the other. I, as a city
4 representative, consistently go back to Washington
5 and lobbying on the federal issues with two
6 congressional representatives.

7 But the City of Ontario has had the
8 benefit of having one senator representative and one
9 Assembly representative. And, through that, we have
10 had the benefit of having financial gain brought to
11 our city with our lobbying efforts with Senator Soto
12 and previous Senators. We find that this is the way
13 to run our city, is have representation by one, our
14 population diversity. We are primarily basically a
15 50 percent split Hispanic community, and our issues
16 for our demographic makeup are consistent from Pomona
17 to San Bernardino.

18 We feel that we are a cohesive
19 regional body, and to section us into different
20 districts, I think would be a detriment, especially
21 with Ontario with all of the growth that is taking
22 place right now. Again, if we do look at the
23 partisan side, if you cut our city to the east, you
24 benefit in one district by all of the economic
25 growth. To the west you have all of our residential.

1 To the south you have a 30-year planned community of
2 growth through the Ag preserve.

3 So the City of Ontario's position
4 today with this committee is to ask that we be heard
5 as asking for consistency, not carving up our city or
6 even our region because regional issues are paramount
7 at this time with the Alameda corridor. And, also,
8 as Mayor Bill Alexander from Rancho Cucamonga has
9 stated, we have transportation issues that are
10 paramount in our area, and this is not the time to do
11 that.

12 If you want to look at 10 or 20 years
13 down the road when our growth is waning, we can
14 understand that. But today, it is not a prudent
15 move, we feel, for the City of Ontario to be in favor
16 of any changes in our representation.

17 And, Chairman Longville, thank you
18 very much for allowing us to come today. Thank you.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
20 much. We appreciate your taking the time to come
21 here today, as well.

22 And I'm going to -- the next person
23 I'm going to ask to testify is Fontana council member
24 Josie Gonzales. And as she's coming forward, then
25 we'll have Council Member Bill Ruh and following that

1 Mayor Floyd Peterson from Loma Linda. Before I have
2 Council Member Gonzales begin, let you know that
3 we've been rejoined by Assembly Member Rod Pacheco
4 who did have his cell phone on silent and did go away
5 to take care of his call, and we appreciate it.

6 Assembly Member Pacheco, would you
7 care to perhaps share the Riverside perspective.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER PACHECO: I'm fine.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: We appreciate you
10 taking the time to join us today. As I mentioned
11 earlier, Assembly Member Pacheco represents the City
12 of Riverside, as well as associated areas, and we
13 welcome you.

14 Council member, please proceed.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALES: Good afternoon,
16 Mr. Chair and members of the committee. My name is
17 Josie Gonzales. I am a resident, a business owner,
18 and councilwoman for the City of Fontana.

19 I would like to extend my gratitude
20 and commend you on the decisions that you have to
21 make on our behalf, and how you have allowed us to
22 come before you and perhaps bear some influence on
23 those very difficult decisions. I say "perhaps"
24 because I know after being on council for almost
25 three years that many times decisions are made on

1 facts as opposed to our feelings and our own personal
2 wants. And that is pretty much what I'm doing here
3 before you this afternoon.

4 Your willingness to consider the
5 impact that your decisions will have on my city will
6 affect us for many years to come. As a long-time
7 resident of the City of Fontana, I value and support
8 the rich, ongoing tradition that has been nourished
9 by many generations, and I say that because my
10 parents contributed greatly to what the City of
11 Fontana is today in their own hardworking way.

12 My city is compromised by different
13 cultures -- comprised -- I'm sorry. My city is
14 comprised -- compromised. Yeah, that is true, too.
15 Yikes, but has been brought together by communities
16 that share common interests. I live in the 32nd
17 district, which runs from San Bernardino west to
18 Pomona and includes the City of Rialto, Colton,
19 Montclair, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, and Chino.
20 These cities have rooted commonalities that are
21 reflected in the educational level, ethnic
22 population, income level, and party registration.

23 Part of my objective here today is to
24 request that you consider the communities of interest
25 in the process of redistricting, and that you make

1 the necessary efforts to recognize and protect the
2 interests of my community. And I stress that. I
3 cannot speak for anyone else, but I can speak for my
4 city. And so I am asking you to realize the impact
5 that your decision will have on transportation, on
6 the educational system, the economic level --
7 different levels that we are struggling with in our
8 city limits; and by keeping these in mind, you allow
9 us to be cohesive in the struggle that we are going
10 through.

11 We have been a city who has been a
12 blur on the map for many years; however, that is no
13 longer true. The City of Fontana now has a clear
14 vision and is looked upon with clear focus, not only
15 from other cities in the Inland Empire, but by other
16 states because we are beginning to attract, for the
17 first time, the type of economic interests that we
18 have so long missed and the surrounding cities have
19 been able to enjoy.

20 And so based on this opportunity that
21 is opening up for us, I ask you to consider this as a
22 primary objective when you make your decisions
23 because we don't want to go back to where we were.
24 And it is a very real possibility. I have been -- as
25 I said, I've been councilwoman long enough now to

1 take enough trips to Sacramento and to Washington and
2 to realize the amount of footwork, the amount of
3 emotional background that goes into coming before you
4 and other elected officials as we struggle with the
5 problems that we carry with us on these trips to make
6 them present and allow you to have our personal point
7 of view of how we are approached by the citizenry.

8 Let me also say that on an ethnic
9 component, we enjoy a congruent and continuous
10 district in the Inland Empire. One of the most
11 notable attributes is the ethnic diversity shared by
12 all of the number of cities that are here before
13 you. Fontana has a 49.2 percent Hispanic population,
14 30.8 percent white, 10.7 percent African-American,
15 and 6.2 Asian. We struggle to make all of these
16 numbers work, just as you struggle looking at how
17 your decision will affect us.

18 However, we live on a one-to-one basis
19 with these people. They come up to us, as we come up
20 to you and represent them. I know you've heard all
21 of this before, but never before has it been so
22 important to me to say it because in the years to
23 come the decision you make will be how my city will
24 end up placing itself on the economic level within
25 the Inland Empire.

1 The approximate average income of
2 households is \$43,153. Nine point five percent of
3 this district is under \$10,000, 24 percent is between
4 20,000 and 40,000 dollars, 23 percent is between
5 40,000 and 60,000 dollars. Only 7.4 percentage of
6 households in the 32nd district make over \$100,000,
7 and trust me, Fontana does not fall anywhere near
8 that 7.4 percent. And we are working very hard to
9 attract that income level; however, without the
10 power-block type of representation that we need in
11 order to become a viable option for people of such
12 economic levels to move to our city, we will not be
13 able to compete. And we will, once again, within the
14 next recession, within the next economic valley, will
15 not be able to take advantage of the next peak as we
16 are struggling to do so at this very time.

17 I ask you to please keep the City of
18 Fontana with its similar income levels together as
19 one; that it can benefit, in turn, the entire
20 district.

21 None of us relish the difficult
22 decisions that come with our office. None of us
23 relish having to go up against a particular elected
24 official and side with another. We all want what is
25 best, and many times situations like this are

1 interpreted as "Whose side are you on?" I want to
2 make it perfectly clear that I am here speaking for
3 my city and what I believe as its elected official is
4 best for it in the future, not what is best for me.

5 And with this, I thank you for
6 allowing me the opportunity to tell you what I see,
7 my point of view that will in the long run best
8 affect and have the highest beneficial result for my
9 city. These hearings are an important process that
10 will help make my community a better place to live
11 because of the interest we all take. Thank you.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
13 much, Council Member. We appreciate your taking the
14 time, as well, to be here today.

15 And Council Member Ruh from the City
16 of Montclair, followed by Loma Linda Mayor Floyd
17 Peterson.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RUH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
19 and members of this committee. I am Bill Ruh, a
20 council member from the City of Montclair; and over
21 the years that I've been involved with public policy,
22 I've had a chance to work with just about every one
23 of you on something, and I appreciate the efforts
24 each one of you have put forward, not just for the
25 Inland Empire, but for the issues we all share in

1 common throughout the State of California.

2 The job you have before you is not the
3 easiest job. It's going to be very difficult to
4 determine how to do this. I'm reminded of the words
5 that were inscribed above the Roman Senate chamber so
6 many years ago. They said, "Nu elect sadas comoda
7 omni busest." And my apologies to my Latin teacher;
8 I think I messed it up a little bit. But it says,
9 "There is no law that will satisfy everyone." And we
10 realize that, and we understand, and we know that no
11 matter what decisions you make, we will continue to
12 work with you in the spirit of friendship in a
13 non-partisan sense to the benefit of our mutual
14 constituents.

15 But I'm here today after talking to
16 several of the residents in the City of Montclair.
17 I've lived there my entire life. When my parents, my
18 family, moved to the city, it had just been
19 incorporated three years before, and the street they
20 lived on was a dirt road. It was soon paved, and we
21 soon had major industry and major shopping all around
22 us. So I've talked to many of the residents, the
23 new residents and the long-time residents. One of
24 the things they said is they don't want to see any
25 change with this. They're very, very happy with the

1 representation that they currently have. They feel
2 that they've made a good rapport with the current
3 legislators we have. They know who to go to. They
4 know what to expect.

5 They were very emphatic in the fact
6 that they feel that over the years Montclair has
7 always been the tail end of something, and I let them
8 know that that isn't the case, that the current
9 council works very hard with all of you up here.

10 In our city we have a unique
11 situation. We have the 41st Congressional District,
12 which covers not just San Bernardino County, but
13 L.A. County. That gives us a good opportunity to
14 work with our neighbors from the other side of the
15 line on many of our regional issues such as Alameda
16 corridor east. And Congressman Miller will tell you
17 that when we go to Washington, it's not just
18 Montclair, it's our friends in Chino and Ontario, as
19 well as our L.A. County partners together for things
20 such as the Alameda corridor east. I know that
21 Senator Soto and Assembly Member McLeod will tell you
22 that when we go up there, because the 32nd district
23 covers such a large area, yet it's one common
24 component, is the fact we all have the same
25 interests. Assembly Member McLeod will tell you the

1 same thing. It may cover portions of L.A. County.
2 It may go out up as far, in some cases, as San
3 Bernardino for these districts. But we have one
4 common interest, one common thread that unites us.
5 It's the fact we are working together. Pomona is, in
6 many cases, a part of San Bernardino County. We work
7 together with them.

8 Most of you have heard me over the
9 years say there are three issues that keep California
10 going, and if any one of them falls apart, the state
11 falls apart. It's water, energy, and
12 transportation. That's true for my city. We
13 desperately need to remain where we are. The Alameda
14 corridor east is too large a project to have us
15 carved up into other areas.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Slower.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RUH: -- to have us carved up
18 into other areas. Regionally, we're part of the
19 Chino Basin Water District or Inland Empire's Utility
20 District. We have one common thread there.
21 Energywise, we're working with the same Edison and
22 Gas Company reps as our neighboring cities. And I
23 guess one of the concerns that one of the residents
24 expressed to me is, she said -- somebody who has been
25 involved in politics for many years in our area --

1 that she was concerned we would be swallowed up by
2 L.A. County. They would carve a district that would
3 take us out of San Bernardino and into L.A., and her
4 fear is that although we would still continue to work
5 very hard, but because we are the line with Pomona
6 and Claremont, that they would take our city, our
7 little 25,000 population base, throw us in with
8 L.A. County as the tail end of something, and we'd
9 lose our voice. We can't afford for that to happen.
10 We have a major shopping center, which is a regional
11 employer. We have many, many students from Chaffee
12 College. Many of the young families that are moving
13 into Chino, Chino Hills, and Ontario who are employed
14 there. It is a major shopping component. It's a
15 major economic component. And we really hope that we
16 don't have to reeducate another group of legislators
17 on the importance of the Alameda corridor east, on
18 the importance of economic vitality.

19 We already have a group we're working
20 with. They're very good legislators. I know you
21 know all of them at the federal and the state level,
22 and we just would like to remain where we are, if we
23 can. And as Council Member Gonzales said about
24 working together, we really are a family in San
25 Bernardino County. I work regularly with Josie and

1 with Judith and with Gwen, with Jerry, with many of
2 the others you heard here today. We're a family in
3 San Bernardino County. Throughout this area, we want
4 to remain just where we are. We appreciate the
5 leadership, the effort, and the dedication we've had
6 from our legislators of the last seven years. We
7 want to remain that way.

8 Thank you all so very much, and the
9 task ahead of you isn't easy, but I know each of you
10 personally. You're going to do a great job. You're
11 very dedicated and committed. Thank you.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
13 much, Council Member. We appreciate it.

14 And our next member of the elected
15 officials group is Loma Linda Mayor Floyd Peterson.
16 And after Mayor Peterson, we will be taking the panel
17 of the African-American Community Advisory Committee
18 on Redistricting headed by the Reverend William
19 Monroe Campbell, and I believe he has one or two
20 other people -- I'm not sure. He may have more --
21 that are with him. And then the Inland Empire
22 African-American Redistricting Committee, so -- just
23 so people can be getting an idea of what the timing
24 is like.

25 And, Mayor Peterson, thank you for

1 being here.

2 MAYOR PETERSON: Thanks, Assemblyman
3 Longville. I'll try to make this very short. I'm
4 amazed at the length of the speeches this morning.
5 They've been good and long.

6 We appreciate very much these
7 hearings. We're happy where we are. But we're
8 always interested when this reapportionment comes
9 along because of the little corner -- we're on three
10 different districts, the 40th Congressional District,
11 and we would appreciate very much remaining in that.
12 We're very comfortable where we are. With the state
13 Senate and Assembly, we're also very comfortable, and
14 we would just like to keep things the way they are.

15 I do, however, appreciate the remarks
16 that Joe Baca made this morning. I think that he had
17 a very wise map in terms of his district.

18 And I would say one last thing, that
19 in terms of community, we probably identify,
20 philosophically, best with the Grand Terrace and
21 Redlands.

22 Thank you.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
24 much, Mayor. We appreciate it. And I'm not sure if
25 the applause is more for the content or the brevity.

1 But in any event, you definitely got a great
2 reaction, Mayor.

3 We now ask Reverend William Monroe
4 Campbell. And I'm going to ask you, Minister
5 Campbell, if you could just introduce anyone else
6 that you have with you, and just let me know when
7 your group is done.

8 I would also ask -- I should have
9 mentioned earlier, in the case of all the electeds,
10 it won't be difficult for us to reconstruct this,
11 but for everyone that speaks can you make sure and
12 spell your name for the record, for the court
13 reporter.

14 Thank you.

15 REVEREND CAMPBELL: Thank you very much.
16 Being placed in your hand are copies of the comments.
17 You will note that there is some editing that I've
18 done since I've been here because I've come to
19 understand that you are giving attention to the
20 Assembly District and not congressional districts.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: All.

22 REVEREND CAMPBELL: Oh, you also will be
23 giving attention to the congressional district?

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Yes.

25 REVEREND CAMPBELL: Well, then I will reedit

1 my editing. Okay.

2 I am the Reverend Monroe Campbell,
3 coordinator of the African-American Community
4 Advisory Committee on Redistricting. And I'm being
5 joined today by Adrian Dove, who is our director of
6 research, and we will also be joined with
7 presentations coming from some of the additional
8 persons that you indeed have listed on the agenda,
9 including Mr. Wilbur Brown, then a Miss Frances Grace
10 of the Inland Empire Black Women's Forum, then
11 Mr. Dove will come and share, and then Mrs. Bonnie
12 Johnson of the Inland Empire Black Women's Leadership
13 Coalition, and then other members of the Inland
14 Empire African-American Coalition on Redistricting
15 that you see listed in terms of the various groups,
16 the Westside Action Group, the NAACP San Bernardino
17 Chapter, the NAACP Youth Council, the
18 African-American churches in the area, the Kwanzaa
19 group, the African-American Chamber of Commerce, et
20 cetera.

21 This is indeed, as you know, my second
22 appearance before you, having previously testified at
23 your Los Angeles hearing on June 8th. In speaking
24 before you at that time, I stressed the historical
25 context of the work you do in the light of the

1 reconstruction and the post-reconstruction period of
2 the 1800s, and then urged you to not engage in a
3 process that would diminish the voice of our
4 community by collapsing districts that have produced
5 elected representation. That would tragically result
6 in retrogression. In that presentation, I also spoke
7 of historic character of our community and various
8 institutions that reflect our existing communities of
9 interest such as churches, businesses, school
10 relationships, and historic communities of identity
11 such as Watts.

12 Today I would invite you to continue
13 to appreciate these insights, and also place an
14 emphasis on distinctive needs of subsections within
15 our community that warrant distinctive
16 representation.

17 Let me speak, then, to a congressional
18 district, since that is included in your
19 consideration. The 32nd Congressional District is
20 reflective of the upward mobility of our community
21 with its westward migration, patterns reflected in
22 the area such as Crenshaw, Baldwin Hills, View Park,
23 Windsor Park, and Ladera Heights. Let me also note
24 the distinction of state assembly districts such as
25 the 48th and 52nd district. While these areas both

1 share identity with the community, there are unique
2 elements that merit distinctive representation. The
3 48th district is well within the City of Los Angeles,
4 whereas the 52nd district includes smaller cities
5 such as Compton and Gardena, and distinctive areas
6 such as Watts, Willowbrook, and Athens.

7 May I also speak to a concern on
8 behalf of communities outside of Los Angeles County.
9 Again, I say to you, I'm delighted to be present with
10 you today here in San Bernardino and to join with
11 those in this community and the nearby areas of
12 Rialto and Moreno Valley and Perris who have a
13 substantive historical link to Los Angeles. This is
14 a rapidly growing area with many of its new residents
15 having moved here from areas such as South Central
16 Los Angeles, Compton, and Carson, as well as some who
17 had periods of residency in Cerritos.

18 As this community is continuing to
19 develop, it has elements that parallel significant
20 commonality with historic communities of interest,
21 factors such as the churches of the same
22 denominational background and relationships as well
23 as similar business institutions. Forward-looking
24 planning should give consideration to this in terms
25 of new district boundary lines.

1 Another area that I would like to
2 speak to is the Northern California area, including
3 Alameda County communities in the East Bay. The
4 Honorable Robert Lee currently represents this area.
5 It has a long and distinguished history of
6 representation at state and congressional levels with
7 names such as Byron Rutherford, Ronald Delons, and
8 Representative Lee. I urge you to be mindful of this
9 history and the representation of our cohorts as
10 these districts are determined.

11 Again, thank you for receiving me and
12 for receiving those who will join with me in sharing
13 with you today. Mr. Brown will follow me and then
14 Miss Grice and Mr. Dove and the others, as we have
15 said, and they will share with you in greater
16 detail.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
18 much. And again, I would remind you, as new people
19 come up, if you have testimony in writing, I'm
20 assuming your names are on it, but if it's not in
21 writing, please be certain to spell your names.

22 MR. BROWN: Assemblyman Longville, members
23 of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity
24 to address you, and thank you for holding the hearing
25 here. My name is Wilbur Brown, W-i-l-b-u-r, and I'm

1 a member of the Westside Action Group, which is one
2 of the organizations that serves as a part of the
3 organization now called the Inland Area
4 African-American Redistricting Committee. I'm also a
5 retired supervising probation officer from San
6 Bernardino County, and I'm affiliated with several
7 other professional and civic groups.

8 Today I would like to start out
9 with -- begin again with some of our panel's
10 presentation by providing some background information
11 and presenting four key points relative to the
12 African-American communities of interest.

13 Like other communities, the
14 African-American community is composed of people with
15 a wide range of experiences, interests and education,
16 educational levels, political beliefs, and religious
17 practices; but we do share a very common set of
18 experiences because of the history of blacks in this
19 country. The timing of this hearing is also
20 appropriate since we have just celebrated
21 Independence Day. Recognizing that the committee
22 does not control all areas of this, some of these
23 things are done with this federal census, but we feel
24 that the uses of the redistricting process needs to
25 be modified in the area of race. And San Bernardino

1 County, our community loses 5,147 individuals due to
2 the method of reporting the number based on race.
3 Unfortunately for us, that equals almost
4 three percent of our total population.

5 If, in fact, some of those areas of
6 how race is recorded, some portions that we feel are
7 outdated at this time, and we feel a better method
8 would be to utilize the inclusive B methodology.

9 The census got the numbers right, but
10 the labels are wrong. We agree with our colleagues
11 in the Los Angeles area where you've already had a
12 hearing who introduced to you the terminology of a
13 cohort of the African-American experience in America,
14 and other speakers may address this again further.

15 There are four key points that the
16 coalition would like to stress for this committee,
17 and these points are:

18 One, we strongly support the concept
19 of one person, one vote.

20 Two, we want the communities of what
21 we call the ebony triangle to be kept together.

22 Three, we want to keep the natural
23 communities of interest in one district.

24 Four, we do not want to turn back the
25 clock.

1 I will address each of these points
2 and provide a little context for you.

3 California, as most of you know, is
4 home to about 2.5 million of the cohorts who share
5 the African-American experience. That's according to
6 the 2000 census. Dependent upon which methodology
7 used to determine that, the Inland Empire which is --
8 in itself basically includes most of San Bernardino
9 and Riverside counties, has over 250,000 persons of
10 African descent, about 10 percent of the state's
11 black population, making us second only to
12 Los Angeles County in African-Americans and blacks
13 living in the state. The region ranks also as one of
14 the highest in terms of growth since the previous
15 census.

16 San Bernardino County was one of the
17 areas of the state that experienced consistent growth
18 in several regions. The black population has been a
19 significant part of that growth. For example,
20 between 1980 and 1990, San Bernardino County was the
21 top growth for counties with at least 50,000 blacks.
22 That growth has continued through the year 2000. The
23 black population increased by about 38 percent,
24 compared to 21 percentage for the community as a
25 whole.

1 There have been key areas of welfare
2 for blacks in the Inland Empire, and they include the
3 high desert area around Victorville, Moreno Valley,
4 and Riverside/Perris areas. The west side of the
5 county, which includes Rancho Cucamonga and Alta Loma
6 and what we call the ebony triangle.

7 The ebony triangle is the most unique
8 because of the growth population concentration and
9 ability to elect blacks to public office.

10 For the clarification of those of you
11 who may not know, the ebony triangle is the region
12 bounded by Interstate 215 on the east, Interstate 10
13 on the south, and Interstate 15 on the west, and we
14 have prepared a map of that region for you. It
15 includes what we also call the west side of the City
16 of San Bernardino, the Cities of Rialto, Fontana,
17 Colton, and the communities of Bloomington and
18 Muskoy. While only 20 percent of the county's total
19 population lives in the ebony triangle, 32 percent of
20 the county's black population resides there.

21 There's another factor that makes the
22 ebony triangle significant in defining our community
23 of interest. This factor is the concentration of
24 blacks in the area. For example, although 31 percent
25 of the county's Hispanic population lives in the

1 ebony triangle, that concentration is even higher in
2 the City of Ontario. On the other hand, blacks have
3 both the high percentage of our population and our
4 highest concentration living in this ebony triangle.
5 The particular highest concentration can be found in
6 the City of Rialto, and we have also included a map
7 with the concentration depicted.

8 Another key factor that defines the
9 African-American community of interest is the black
10 church. In San Bernardino County, black churches in
11 the ebony triangle and in other parts of the City of
12 San Bernardino, in particular, play a major role in
13 defining a growing community of interest that is
14 active in social, educational, and cultural issues.
15 The black church is still the backbone of the black
16 community. Although these churches are located
17 within a relatively small geographical area, their
18 membership, besides throughout the Inland Empire --
19 and it's not uncommon to have families that have
20 moved out of the west side of San Bernardino, for
21 instance, to Chino Hills, to return to the church
22 from the area that they left and still remain an
23 active part of that.

24 Socioeconomic issues also leave blacks
25 in the community of interest. African-Americans are

1 the group that have been most impacted by public
2 policies that focus on low income criteria to receive
3 government benefits such as funds to improve housing
4 stock. That is due -- is the fact that blacks of all
5 income levels are more likely to continue to live in
6 close proximity with each other than any other ethnic
7 group. In the past, this fact has kept certain
8 census tracts, such as census tract 42, from
9 qualifying for first time homeowner funding.

10 On average, the rate of homeownership
11 is lower in the black community, unemployment rates
12 are higher, educational levels are also lower. In
13 addition, the financial institutions are not
14 initially and usually never locate in our
15 neighborhoods. The African-American business
16 community has taken an active role in encouraging
17 business development and financial planning to try to
18 change some of these things.

19 The primary purpose of redistricting
20 is to address the concept of representation for all
21 communities. The black community has been very
22 active throughout the Inland Empire. Blacks have
23 served in a number of elected offices from school
24 boards to city councils, from city clerks to mayors,
25 as well as on community college boards.

1 At this time, the City of Rialto is in
2 a very unique position in that it has five
3 African-Americans in elected positions, including the
4 school board.

5 Once again, the ebony triangle has the
6 highest proportion and concentration of black elected
7 officials in the Inland Empire. This is especially
8 significant because of the elected -- because most of
9 these elected officials were elected from at-large
10 districts in cities where blacks do not have
11 majority, and this occurs because of the way the
12 districts are currently set up.

13 Our coalition is strongly committed to
14 seeing that our Assembly, senate, and congressional
15 districts be anchored around the ebony triangle, and
16 that the City of Rialto and its sphere of influence
17 be kept intact. Splitting Rialto would definitely
18 reduce the political influence of the black
19 community.

20 The region also needs to keep some
21 semblance of political balance. The ebony triangle
22 is also a region of the county where, to the horror
23 of some, there is a high concentration of registered
24 Democrats. Because of the high correlation between
25 ethnicity and party affiliation, this ebony

1 triangle -- and that is located within this ebony
2 triangle, any district that splits the northern
3 portion of Fontana and Rialto would probably be in
4 violation of the Voting Rights Act.

5 Join districts that would give local
6 voters who are non-whites opportunity to elect
7 representatives who share their interest is strongly
8 suggested. Again, the ebony triangle is the best
9 area in which to anchor these districts.

10 I thank you for the opportunity to
11 speak. We have a few more speakers who will be
12 coming. I think Mr. Hardy Brown will be next.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you, and,
14 sir, did you give your name to the court reporter and
15 the spelling?

16 MR. BROWN: Yes.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
18 much, sir.

19 Mr. Hardy, I'm going to ask if we
20 can -- would you mind if we just take a real quick
21 break so that we can -- and then we'll resume with
22 you in just a moment so that we can let a couple
23 people take breaks, including make sure that our
24 court reporter's knuckles can reabsorb lubricant or
25 something.

1 MR. BROWN: That's fine.

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: And we'll go for
3 no more than ten minutes here.

4 (Recess taken.)

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Ladies and
6 gentlemen, we are ready to reconvene and I've asked
7 the other members of the committee to come back, as
8 well.

9 We were at the point of introducing
10 Mr. Hardy Brown, and after he finishes with the very
11 considerate accommodation of Reverend William
12 Campbell and his organization, we're going to insert
13 two very brief comments -- I've been promised they'll
14 be brief -- that were inadvertently left off the list
15 and had called in but had been left off the list.

16 After Mr. Brown and before
17 Mr. Jackson, who will be the next part of the group,
18 we will insert briefly the League of Women Voters and
19 a representative, a former member of the Republican
20 County Central Committee, and I've been assured those
21 will be just a brief interruption of the group that's
22 up now.

23 So with that, Mr. Brown, you have the
24 floor.

25 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name

1 is Hardy L. Brown, H-a-r-d-y, Brown, president of the
2 NAACP.

3 Just a little background on me, as I'm
4 also the publisher of the Black Voice News, which is
5 a business located in Riverside. I'm a resident of
6 San Bernardino.

7 For the past 42 years, I've worked all
8 over San Bernardino and Riverside, spending 30 years
9 at Kaiser Hospital at human resources there in
10 Fontana, and prior to that, working for six and a
11 half years with Southern California Edison, where I
12 walked the streets of San Bernardino from Etiwanda
13 Avenue over to Boulder in the area. So I'm very
14 familiar with this community. And also did a little
15 work for Edison in Riverside at Perris, Lake
16 Elsinore, Sunnymede, Romaland, et cetera. And I give
17 that background because we're talking about a
18 community of interest, and since I reside in one and
19 work every day in another, I understand that issue
20 very, very well.

21 I thank you for giving us the
22 opportunity to place the black community's concern
23 before you prior to any decisions being made that
24 would exclude us from the process. As you know, the
25 NAACP has been a champion of voting and

1 representation rights for our people a long time. It
2 dates back to 1909 in New York City in response to
3 increasing violence against black people in all parts
4 of the country. This all came after the famous Dred
5 Scott case of 1857 where our own United States
6 Supreme Court held that a black man has no rights
7 that a white man is bound to respect. That is a
8 tremendous statement to be made by the highest court
9 in the land, and we have some individuals today who
10 still believe that that decision was the correct
11 decision. We disagree.

12 With this widespread disrespect and
13 disregard for human rights of black citizens of the
14 United States, an interracial group of prominent
15 citizens founded the National Association for the
16 Advancement of Colored People, better known as the
17 NAACP. The main objective or mission of the nation's
18 oldest civil rights organization is to improve the
19 lives of the people of color in the following areas:

20 Improve the political status in voter
21 registration, voter participation, and representation
22 as elected officials. We were instrumental in
23 helping to pass the 1965 Voter Rights Act which
24 outlawed the famous literacy tests and poll tax that
25 my mother and father had to pay in North Carolina.

1 To improve the educational status by
2 removing all barriers of discrimination in classrooms
3 in America.

4 By improving the social status within
5 the communities that we reside in by serving on the
6 boards and commissions and quasi-governmental
7 organizations.

8 To improve the economical status
9 through increased employment and entrepreneurial
10 opportunities and greater access to capital from
11 financial institutions, which I can say that Senator
12 Nell Soto is currently working to see what she can do
13 to help establish small business development
14 corporation that will be able to provide
15 entrepreneurships with the necessary financial
16 capital to expand that business.

17 Housing status, by eliminating
18 discrimination in housing and through better living
19 communities, which now those same discriminatory
20 practices which were once a part of our land still
21 have those boundaries that confine us to certain
22 areas, even though we have made significant
23 improvements.

24 To eliminate racial prejudice wherever
25 we would find it. To keep the public informed of

1 NAACP issues. And last, but not least, to take
2 lawful action where necessary that is consistent with
3 any national and non-national policies.

4 However, the issue before us today is
5 redistricting, where the line should be drawn that
6 will keep our communities of interest in place. This
7 is a very important issue that ranks just under the
8 right to vote. The right to vote was our core
9 concern for many years, but little did we know that
10 our vote had been diluted by including or excluding
11 us in gerrymandering schemes that would deplete our
12 voice.

13 Our collective voting strength was
14 weakened by well-conceived redistricting plans that
15 divided and conquered. We do not want that to happen
16 here in the Inland Empire.

17 It was President Lyndon Baines Johnson
18 that said, "Our fathers believed that if this noble
19 view of the right of man was to flourish, it must be
20 rooted in democracy. The most basic right of all was
21 the right to choose your own leaders. The history of
22 this country, in large measure, is the history of the
23 expansion of that right to all people. Many of the
24 issues of civil rights are very complex and most
25 difficult, but about this there can be no argument.

1 Every American citizen must have an equal right to
2 vote. There is no reason that can excuse the denial
3 of that right. There is no duty that weighs more
4 heavily on us than the duty to ensure that right,"
5 end of quote.

6 I say to you today, there's no greater
7 responsibility you have today than to guarantee that
8 our community of interest remains intact. Our
9 political, social, economical, educational, and
10 religious interests have been tied together in the
11 communities of San Bernardino, Rialto, Fontana,
12 Colton, and Ontario dating back to the early '40s
13 when Kaiser still brought us together. We are joined
14 at the hip, and are requesting that you not perform
15 any political surgery that will cleverly redistrict
16 our plan.

17 The redistricting plans of the past 30
18 years have brought increased voter strength and
19 elected officials of color on various city councils,
20 school boards, community colleges in the Cities of
21 San Bernardino, Colton, Rialto, Banning, Lake
22 Elsinore, Perris, Riverside, Desert Hot Springs, and
23 the list goes on and on.

24 In addition, the only African-American
25 on -- serving county, state, and federal right now

1 resides in San Bernardino serving on democratic
2 member staff. None of the Republican elected
3 officials that we have been able to find have a
4 person of African-American heritage serving on their
5 staff in the counties of San Bernardino or Riverside;
6 therefore, we say continue to look at our community
7 of interest.

8 The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision
9 of Hunt, Governor of North Carolina, versus Kamarti,
10 gives states the authority to draw redistricting
11 lines along communities where political issues, a
12 thing that they have in common. I just returned from
13 that great state of North Carolina, and to my
14 surprise, my home state, my hometown of Trenton,
15 North Carolina, where one of the board members still
16 have the confederate flag flying higher than the U.S.
17 flag in his yard. They also have, since 1949, passed
18 ordinances that would keep blacks and undesirables,
19 as the ordinance would say, from even becoming a part
20 of the city limits, even though more of us live on
21 the outside of the city limits.

22 And here we're talking about boundary
23 lines that exclude us from the political process,
24 even though it's the blacks who put all the dollars
25 and spend all their money inside of that particular

1 town. We would like to not see that kind of
2 gerrymandering take place in this area.

3 In closing, the NAACP wants you to
4 remember the importance of one person, one vote. One
5 natural community of interest and the implication of
6 the previous U.S. Supreme Court's decision, and we do
7 not want the clock to be turned back because of our
8 inability to do the right thing.

9 Our request is nothing new, and it's
10 nothing that's difficult because it's something
11 that's been going on in this country ever since the
12 inception of the country. When we put together who
13 should vote, we said landowners should vote. If you
14 don't have land, you can't vote. That's a community
15 of interest of landowners.

16 We're saying that we have a community
17 of interest; that we, too, would like to be placed on
18 that list in the decision-making process.

19 Thank you very much.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
21 much, Mr. Brown. And we appreciate your taking time
22 to come here. I also would note your school board
23 status since you weren't introduced formally in that
24 context.

25 MR. BROWN: Yes. Retired for six years.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: We appreciate
2 that. Thank you.

3 As I mentioned we're going to have a
4 brief interruption of the panel to accommodate the
5 two individuals who have been inadvertently left off
6 of the list, and then we will return to Mr. Corey
7 Jackson. But before Mr. Jackson, I have Mr. Bob
8 DeMallie. Where is Mr. DeMallie?

9 MR. DE MALLIE: Right here.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: He'll be next
11 after the League of Women Voters woman. I have
12 Ms. Lenore Manak, and most of us know her as Lee.

13 MS. MANAK: Thank you. Good afternoon,
14 Chairman and committee members.

15 I forgot it. This is a copy for you
16 in case I speak a little too fast.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: That's always
18 appreciated.

19 MS. MANAK: Thank you.

20 My name is Lenore Manak. I live in
21 Highland, and I have lived in the Inland Empire since
22 1961. I am here today as president of the League of
23 Women Voters of San Bernardino, with membership
24 throughout San Bernardino County. The League of
25 Women Voters welcomes this opportunity to address you

1 today about redistricting for the first decade of the
2 21st century.

3 The League of Women Voters is pleased
4 that the League of Women Voters California, our state
5 league, had an opportunity to suggest improvements to
6 the committee procedures and guidelines relating to
7 redistricting, and also that you are working to
8 ensure that the public has the opportunity to
9 participate effectively in the redistricting process
10 so that all communities in the state have fair
11 representation in new districts that comply with
12 state and federal law.

13 Your attempt to place information on
14 the committee's website is also commendable; however,
15 not everyone uses the Internet or will find the
16 website to be a sufficient means for becoming
17 informed.

18 The League supports the following
19 principles for redrawing the district lines: The
20 district should include substantially equal
21 population, be geographically contiguous, and protect
22 from diluting the voting strength of a racial or
23 linguistic minority. The district should not allow
24 the goal of protecting incumbents or preferential
25 treatment of one political party. And to the extent

1 possible, they should also include respect for the
2 boundaries of cities and counties with the
3 preservation and the protection of communities of
4 interest.

5 We hope the Assembly committee is
6 working with the Senate elections and reapportionment
7 committee to share the information about communities
8 of interest. The League's primary concerns are that
9 the criteria used be made available and that the
10 process as a whole be open to the public, allowing
11 sufficient time for the public review and evaluation
12 of the proposed plans before the plans are finalized
13 and adopted. Affected groups must be able to assess
14 all the representational implications inherent in the
15 proposals.

16 A very important part: A one-day
17 advance notice of hearing as noted in number 5-C of
18 the committee procedures and guidelines is simply not
19 enough time for the media to get this information out
20 to the public. Also, it is important to allow enough
21 time to hear public comments and then act on them.
22 Meaning here that you should not plan to hold two
23 days of hearings and then move immediately to a vote
24 without allowing time for improvement and for the
25 public to see the new proposals. Noting that the

1 guidelines now include satellite transmission of the
2 hearings to sites throughout the state will be
3 helpful to the public; but, again, enough advance
4 notice is necessary so that interested people can
5 arrange to get to those sites.

6 Therefore, in setting your timelines
7 and procedures, assure the public has continued
8 opportunity for informed input to your committee and
9 to their own legislators until the final
10 redistricting statutes are passed. No more than in
11 this redistricting process is it your duty to ensure
12 the alert, informed, and communicative citizenry that
13 is so essential to our participatory democracy.

14 Thank you for having your meeting in
15 this city.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
17 much. We appreciate your taking the time to come
18 here, Mrs. Manak -- Manak, excuse me. Well, I'm
19 going to get manic-depressive if I don't get this
20 straight pretty quick here. And thank you for
21 coming.

22 And, Mr. DeMallie, we welcome you
23 being here.

24 MR. DE MALLIE: Thank you.

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Mr. DeMallie, is

1 a former member of the Republican County Central
2 Committee of San Bernardino County, and I believe he
3 is testifying in that context; although, I also
4 remember you as being an elected official at one
5 time.

6 MR. DE MALLIE: Cucamonga School District
7 former board president.

8 Thank you very much for allowing me
9 to be pushed up on the agenda. I wanted to
10 compliment you, Mr. Chairman, and the rest of the
11 committee members on this panel of the open show of
12 getting this information out to the communities. I
13 think it's very, very important. I think it's a
14 process, it's a long process, it's an enduring
15 process, and it's a process that's very important to
16 us as voters in San Bernardino County.

17 Primarily I also wanted to say hello
18 to my former political opponent, Senator Nell Soto.
19 I say "former" because once you became elected, you
20 became my representative and you're my Senator, and I
21 thank you for your participation in the process.

22 I wanted to speak briefly, very
23 briefly, about the integrity of the process and how
24 the process -- the integrity of the process must be
25 maintained.

1 First of all, the process must
2 continue to be an open process, an inclusive process,
3 a process that allows the dissemination of
4 information to the voters primarily through a website
5 arrangement. I know you do have a website, and I
6 think that's a wonderful addition to the committee
7 hearings. And I appreciate the fact that you can put
8 information on there, and I would like to see that
9 information put on even in a more timely manner.

10 I disagree with the prior speaker. I
11 know everybody may not have a computer in their home,
12 but all of our public libraries throughout the
13 county, they do have public -- they do have
14 facilities, computers available to the public, with
15 free access to the Internet, so they would be able to
16 disseminate that information in that process.

17 I would also like to say that the
18 integrity of the process has to be maintained in a
19 timely manner. As my prior speaker did say, it is
20 very important to us as citizens, as voters in our
21 communities, to be able to obtain the information
22 well in advance of the committee or the legislature
23 voting on it. It's extremely important because I
24 think a representative government commands that.

25 You are our representatives, and the

1 only way that we can get information back to you, our
2 representatives, is for us to be able to get the
3 information in a timely manner. I think that's very,
4 very important.

5 And the third and final component to
6 the integrity of the process, I believe it has to be
7 extremely fair, without regard to political parties.
8 I think we have to look at cross cities and cross
9 counties, contiguous lines. I know as a former
10 candidate for the 61st Assembly District, I found
11 that there was an interesting situation with having
12 part of the district -- it's a very small part of the
13 district, about 12 percent -- located in another
14 county. And as you heard by the testimony of those
15 that came prior to me, a lot of city officials have
16 been crying, "Don't split up our counties." While
17 the City of Pomona is represented by three different
18 Assembly members, and, consequently, I think that
19 their representation would be better served by having
20 one individual that they could go to and build a
21 relationship with.

22 One thing, the last thing, in closing
23 I would like to say that communities of interest --
24 and I want you all to hear this -- the communities of
25 interest do not include personal political desires

1 for your own political futures. That is not a
2 community of interest.

3 And I do want to thank you for
4 allowing me to speak here, and I want to thank you
5 folks for allowing me to butt in on your time and
6 allow me to go before you.

7 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
9 much, Mr. DeMallie. We appreciate you taking the
10 time to be here, as well.

11 And now Mr. Corey Jackson, and
12 continuing after Corey, I believe the Reverend
13 William Campbell is going to send up the next person,
14 I believe.

15 And, Corey, you have the floor right
16 now.

17 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, state
18 legislators. I am Corey Jackson, president of the
19 Rialto/Fontana NAACP Youth Council and also
20 commissioner of the City of Rialto.

21 As youth of this key concentrated area
22 known as the ebony triangle, we strongly support and
23 defend the concept of one person, one vote. There is
24 a perception in our society that says that youth do
25 not care about getting involved in their communities;

1 they have no desire to participate in the political
2 process. I stand here before you today to let you
3 and this audience know that it may be so in other
4 parts of this state or county, but when it comes to
5 the area of this ebony triangle, this is not the
6 case. We want to make sure that when we go to the
7 polls, our vote will count.

8 As youth in our communities, we would
9 like to have a strong voice as to who represents us
10 and our interests. Over time this key area has seen
11 a natural formation of a community of interest that
12 has been the cornerstone for the quality of life
13 within our community.

14 Let it be known to this audience and
15 this community that the youth of this community of
16 interest wants the communities of the ebony triangle
17 to be kept together. This is vital to our economical
18 and political strength, to hold our representatives
19 accountable for their actions and their response to
20 our issues. Because of the size of this issue, we
21 cannot and will not accept anything less. By keeping
22 these communities together, our strength will be
23 enhanced and will ensure that our voice is heard.
24 This community of interest has also proven the
25 existence of this community of interest by the many

1 elected African-Americans that have already been
2 elected over time to be our voice in our government
3 body. There are many appointed commissioners and
4 also student commissioners still in high school who
5 have the chance to represent the youth of their
6 communities.

7 The Rialto/Fontana NAACP Youth Council
8 are asking this committee not to turn back the clock
9 by separating these communities. Hear the voice that
10 comes before you today, and please let our voice be
11 heard.

12 Thank you.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
14 much, Mr. Jackson. We appreciate it.

15 MS. SNOWDEN: Chairman Longville, Assembly
16 members, and persons assembled here today, good
17 afternoon. My name is Reverend Robin Jones Snowden,
18 S-n-o-w-d-e-n. I am a member of the New Hope
19 Missionary Baptist Church, which is situated in the
20 west side of the City of San Bernardino. I am also
21 the secretary for Inland Empire Concerned
22 African-American Churches, and today a part of the
23 Inland Area African-American Redistricting
24 Coalition.

25 Even before the civil rights movement,

1 the African-American church has been the locus of
2 social and political and cultural, as well as
3 economic change. Its location, the historical
4 African-American community is a key fundamental in
5 the lives of its members. In history, worshipers
6 have come from in and outside the community for
7 remedies to problems that social and governmental
8 processes have refused to or could not address or
9 provide remedy for. As we have made strides
10 economically, socially, and politically as a people,
11 the African-American church is still at the center of
12 social change, economic development, and economic
13 empowerment. Those of us who have moved from the,
14 quote, neighborhood, unquote, into the suburbs still
15 commute back to our home bases for worship,
16 fellowship, and to support the businesses in our
17 African-American community.

18 The historically African-American
19 neighborhood has and always will remain our community
20 of interest, and any action to break it apart is seen
21 as an affront to the persons who live, work, support,
22 worship, do business, fellowship in, and seek haven
23 in that location.

24 My grandfather was born on January
25 the 1st in the year 1888. He fought to build

1 African-American communities in the state of
2 Virginia. I know firsthand the effects of
3 gerrymandering. He fought to build communities where
4 his vote would not only represent a vote, but that
5 vote would count, and he would share a voice with a
6 cohort of persons with shared history, shared
7 ethnicity, and shared community interest.

8 I stand today with the Inland Area
9 African-American Redistricting Coalition to support
10 the concepts of, number one, one person, one vote.

11 Number two, that the communities in
12 what we have identified as the ebony triangle be kept
13 together and that a natural community of interest be
14 kept in one district. And we entreat you not to turn
15 back the clock on our progress as a community of
16 interest and as a viable part not only of this county
17 but as a viable part of the State of California.

18 I beg to differ with you, Mrs. Soto.
19 My community is not small. If we comprise 32 percent
20 of the African-American people in the ebony triangle
21 and 20 percent of the population of the county, then
22 I see no smallness in that. It represents a place
23 where people can come together and elect persons who
24 will speak their voice in government and promote
25 social and economic beneficial changes.

1 The African-American churches in the
2 Inland Empire have begun to form coalitions with the
3 purpose of harnessing our collective voice and taking
4 steps favorable toward the goals of securing and
5 maintaining adequate representation for our people in
6 our communities of interest and equal opportunities
7 for economic empowerment, economic development, and
8 growth. The Inland Empire Concerned African-American
9 Churches, of which the Reverend Raymond Turner is
10 chairperson, is one such group. The next speaker to
11 come after me, the Reverend Hardy Johnson, will
12 elaborate further regarding the negative impact of
13 any destruction of the ebony triangle as it relates
14 to economic growth and development in our community
15 of interest.

16 I thank you for your time.

17 MR. DOVE: I think we had a slight mix-up. I
18 wanted to finish up the L.A. -- we were just about
19 to, and then we'll move back to San Bernardino.
20 We'll get L.A. out of the way, if I can have your
21 indulgence.

22 My name is Adrian Dove, and I'm with
23 the African-American Advisory Committee on
24 Redistricting. And we're based in Los Angeles, but
25 we are preparing a statewide map, and we're working

1 in close collaboration with the inland area and with
2 the bay area and other parts of the state. We're
3 also coordinating with MALDEF and Asian Pacific
4 American Legal Defense Center and every other
5 community of interest in the state. Our objective is
6 to get the best government possible, and to do that
7 through this redistricting process.

8 In my previous testimony, I presented
9 a concept that is a definition of the
10 African-American community of interest. And I wanted
11 to reference earlier speakers who pointed out that
12 the concept of race itself might be obsolete. That
13 we have come to a point where race was originally a
14 construct that was intended to identify people to be
15 kept in slavery. Slavery ended, formally. Slavery
16 ended and that concept continued and had other uses
17 to exclude certain people from housing, to exclude
18 certain people from employment, and from voting.
19 Then we have civil rights laws and affirmative
20 action, and race was used now to determine
21 beneficiaries of affirmative action.

22 Then we have Prop 209 that was voted
23 by a majority vote in California that said race
24 cannot be the basis for affirmative action in things
25 like education, admission to universities, jobs,

1 business enterprise, and peculiar terms like
2 "disadvantaged businesses." If you're disadvantaged,
3 why are you going into business, you know? So to
4 prove that you're disadvantaged in order to get the
5 minority status.

6 So if that wasn't enough with the
7 demise of race as a basis for determining affirmative
8 action, we have the 2000 census which nails a
9 cornerstone in there, puts the last nail in that
10 coffin. It has divided race into 144 categories.
11 You can be black and Asian, in that case you're
12 called some other race. You can be black and Indian,
13 you're called some -- if you're black and white, you
14 stay black. You can be Hispanic and white, and you
15 are extracted from the white count, and, in effect,
16 it's creating a race out of Hispanic, but that's
17 necessary to do because if you don't, you'll count
18 the people who are white and Hispanic twice. And so
19 that eliminates that double count. On the back side
20 of it, if you're black and Hispanic, you get
21 extracted from the black race.

22 So we support, clearly, the need for
23 the Hispanic community to have a complete inclusive
24 count, comprehensive count of all. And since that
25 includes some black folks, some white folks --

1 45 percent of the Hispanics are white, two percent
2 are black. We also support a way to include all
3 blacks. And so we've come to the conclusion that
4 this black, white, the word I just used there, is an
5 erroneous concept, and it has been erroneous for more
6 than 200 years. And it was maliciously erroneous at
7 the beginning, and benignly erroneous during the
8 affirmative action years.

9 But today, we really have nothing that
10 we can call race, not anymore. If you look at people
11 that are called black, they range from blond, blue
12 eyes, to dark. They come in all colors, shapes, and
13 sizes. You look at people called Hispanic, and
14 they're, you know, the full range. And so what we
15 really are talking about, and have been talking
16 about, is a cohort of common experience. And then by
17 that, I mean a cohort, and so we offer this
18 definition of what is the cohort of common
19 experience.

20 Now, we do not attempt to define
21 what's the cohort of Hispanic or the cohort of
22 Asian. We do intend to define and propose and seek
23 your support of this, the cohort of African-American
24 experience. And that definition is this: Any person
25 who is descended from individuals -- one-eighth or

1 more descended from individuals who came to the
2 United States involuntarily and who worked without
3 pay and were denied the right to quit that job and
4 get another job with pay or to go into business on
5 their own and were required to have their children
6 work that same job and live on the land and that,
7 further, was enforced by Article 1, Section 2 of the
8 Constitution which defined these people as
9 three-fifths of a person. Any individuals from the
10 cohort that experienced this, regardless of their
11 race, regardless of their creed, color, or national
12 ancestry, are cohorts of the African-American
13 experience.

14 And I'll cite an example. Thomas
15 Jefferson had a relationship with Sally Hemming, who
16 herself was half white, and they had five children.
17 Each of those five children were classified as
18 three-fifths of a person. Thomas Jefferson wrote
19 that rule and his own children were considered
20 three-fifths of a person. They had to be -- if
21 you're going race as a definition, three-fourths
22 white, but there is no such thing as three-fourths
23 white.

24 In Louisiana, by one definition,
25 you're black. And you go next door to Mississippi;

1 that same person becomes white. So we are suggesting
2 at this time for us to stand up and recognize that
3 there is no such thing as race, and the census
4 redistricting process is a good place to start.

5 And so we're calling for a resolution
6 or legislation that would declare that the population
7 of the ebony triangle that you are considering --
8 that has been described as black or African-American,
9 that that population be described as cohorts of the
10 African-American experience, and that they be
11 declared not a race. And that the way of determining
12 them will be what is called inclusive black or INC-B
13 on the census form. And we would like to volunteer
14 to follow up with the committee, with the staff
15 Assembly, the Senate, and assist in drafting this and
16 attach it so that we can -- our numbers are
17 diminishing. In L.A. County, we have 960,000 people
18 in the African-American community, if you exclude
19 those that are mixed somehow. The Tiger Woods
20 syndrome. If we add the Tiger Woods types back in,
21 then we cross the line just about to a million, and
22 that's a big difference. It's five percent in San
23 Bernardino County, and our numbers are shrinking
24 because the African-American population has had no
25 massive infusion of international immigration. The

1 last slave ships from Africa ended a good 30 years
2 before the end of slavery, and so there is no
3 international infusion. This is the one community
4 that is devoid of that in those communities.

5 So we would like to urge -- and I'm
6 going to close this off here -- that you initiate a
7 resolution that would define us as a cohort, a
8 non-racial cohort, and count said group using the
9 census data of INC-B. We think they got the numbers
10 right, as right as they do, and I used to be a
11 regional director of the Census Bureau, and we think
12 they got the numbers right, but they put the wrong
13 labels on us. So we just say, keep the numbers,
14 change the labels.

15 Thank you very much.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
17 much, Mr. Dove, for taking the time to be here today.
18 And as the next gentleman is approaching, let me
19 know -- Mr. Dove also spoke at our hearings in
20 Los Angeles and shared an experience which people in
21 this room can appreciate more than the people in L.A.
22 could.

23 Mr. Dove told of his experience when
24 he moved to Monterey Park and was the first
25 African-American family moving into Monterey Park.

1 And the Nazi party sent protestors out to picket on
2 the sidewalk threatening and making their family feel
3 very insecure about their new home. And a car pulled
4 up in front of the protesters, walked over to
5 Mr. Dove, and George Brown, then the mayor of
6 Monterey Park, introduced himself and asked if he
7 could stay in his home that night along with them.
8 Mr. Dove, we appreciated you sharing that story.

9 And the next gentleman, sir, if you
10 could give your name for the record.

11 REVEREND CAMPBELL: Yes, thank you,
12 Mr. Chair. Mr. Reverend Hardy Johnson is going to
13 come, and then after that, we want to recognize
14 Ms. Lois Carson, who served on the community college
15 school board, and then we'll continue in the order
16 that.

17 REVEREND JOHNSON: To the chair and the
18 committee, I pray God's blessings upon each of you.
19 My name is Hardy Johnson, J-o-h-n-s-o-n. I am the
20 senior minister of the Cardinal Memorial Church of
21 God in Christ here in the City of San Bernardino. I
22 am also the economic chair commissioner for the
23 IECAAC, the Inland Empire Concerned African-American
24 Churches.

25 My interest in our community for some

1 40 odd years has been about economic
2 self-sufficiency. Some 20 years we have collected
3 information concerning the income -- the outflow of
4 the community's income. Since the group of pastors
5 joined about a year or so ago under the faith-based
6 initiative and became a faith-based collaborative,
7 they asked me if I would serve in this capacity as an
8 economic commissioner.

9 My first step was to tell them, "I
10 need to be able to sit down and talk to someone
11 concerning the flow of the political process and the
12 flow of the dollars."

13 So after learning that, we picked up
14 our information that we had concerning the
15 redevelopment statute and sit down and review that,
16 and then come across some information that the
17 federal government had put together concerning how to
18 bring about self-sufficient communities.

19 The process was very simple. It was
20 the education that became somewhat difficult,
21 meaning that I first had to get somebody to sit down
22 and listen to my rhetoric. After having the pastor
23 sit and listen to the rhetoric, then we were able to
24 move forward and become what we organize under, a
25 community and individual investment organization.

1 The buy-in concept. What it would indicate and what
2 it would do for us. And the reason why I'm
3 interested in keeping the triangle concept together
4 is because it's the power block as far as the income
5 of the community. Zip code 92411, if I recall that
6 statute real quick, the income of that community is
7 about \$3 million. It does not turn around in that
8 community but one time each 12 months. So the best
9 way to do it was sit with the preachers and get them
10 to understand we have to be able to identify the
11 money rather than the rhetoric. Once we got the
12 money identified, without going into anything any
13 further, we are now able to be sitting down with a
14 large financier who has committed finances to our
15 community in order to bring it to economic
16 self-sufficiency.

17 With this being said, I would
18 appreciate that we keep this triangle together at
19 least for another three years.

20 Thank you.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
22 much, sir.

23 And I believe Ms. Carson was going to
24 be next, and in talking to Reverend William Campbell,
25 she will be followed by Pastor Chuck Singleton.

1 MS. CARSON: I want to first thank the --
2 first thank the Reverend for including me in his
3 cohort.

4 Good afternoon, distinguished
5 panelists and public servants. I am Lois J. Carson,
6 long-time resident of the City of San Bernardino,
7 nearly 50 years. And for 22 years, I've been a
8 public administrator in the County of Riverside,
9 where I direct the Department of Community Action on
10 behalf of low income people who live there. My
11 counterpart in this county is the Community Services
12 Department of San Bernardino County. We change
13 people's lives. I, too, thank you for providing this
14 forum in the Inland Empire, the largest, quote,
15 community of interest in the nation, when you
16 consider the size of these two counties.

17 Not enough people know much about
18 redistricting, so this -- you have brought to us a
19 real lesson in civics. Mayor McLeod, who once said,
20 "I leave you a respect for the use of power." And I
21 hope that as you continue your meetings and your
22 final deliberations, you remember to use your power
23 wisely.

24 I grew up in a segregated south in
25 Memphis, Tennessee. I was inculcated with the fact

1 that my great grandfather had to pay his poll tax to
2 vote, and still wasn't wanted -- allowed to vote
3 until he decided he would tell them, "I will either
4 vote or die here on the spot." They let him vote.
5 So needless to say, I've never missed an opportunity
6 to vote with that kind of lesson.

7 I did serve for 24 years on the San
8 Bernardino Community College board, so I appreciate
9 what it is you're doing.

10 You're engaged in the use of power,
11 and the diversity that you will address in your
12 deliberations is not only racial and ethnic, but
13 cultural and economic and, certainly, political,
14 right down to the neighborhood. Housing, education,
15 transportation, health care, and now the energy
16 crisis we are all undergoing are issues that the poor
17 confront in much larger measure than the rest of us.

18 A little data: Twelve to 15 percent
19 of the population of the Inland Empire is poor,
20 defined as a family of four living on about \$20,000
21 as set by the U.S. Department of Office of Management
22 and Budgets. Nearly one half of this group of people
23 are working poor -- the real heroes of this country.
24 Willing to work and live by the work ethic and can't
25 get over the poverty threshold. Most of this

1 population are women and the children that they
2 raise. They spend over 30 percent of their income on
3 housing -- housing that is in short supply. The poor
4 come in all ages and colors. Now, there's a
5 community of interest that crosses and cuts across
6 all variables. There are pockets of poverty in both
7 counties defined as 51 percent of the people who live
8 there are poor.

9 Beware of creating more poverty
10 pockets. The people who inhabit these pockets are
11 dependent upon your political decisions. Their
12 opportunity hinges on your work; the viability and
13 need of the Inland Empire hinge on the work you do
14 that would leave no one behind. I only wish that a
15 third of this audience were people under the age of
16 18, who will take over the leadership and management
17 of this community at some time.

18 For the millenium, let's get it
19 right. Let's consider the powerless as well as the
20 powerful. Let's give voice to the poor and leave no
21 one behind.

22 Again, I thank you for bringing this
23 important meeting, this hearing, to this community.
24 Thank you.

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very

1 much, Ms. Carson.

2 And Pastor Singleton will be next, I
3 believe.

4 REVEREND CAMPBELL: Actually, Pastor
5 Singleton has asked to defer to Mrs. Frances Grice,
6 who was scheduled to come following Adrian Dove.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Oh, excuse me.
8 Okay. Thank you.

9 REVEREND CAMPBELL: And then, thereafter, he
10 will speak, and thank you for allowing us to make
11 these suggestions.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: That's quite all
13 right. And by the way, after -- let's see. We'll
14 have Ms. Grice, and then the Reverend will speak,
15 Pastor Singleton will speak. And then I'd like to
16 ask if we can have a two-minute interruption. We
17 have missed one elected official, Colton council
18 member, and she indicated she can sum hers up in just
19 two minutes. So we'll insert her at that point and
20 then return to the regular order.

21 So Ms. Grice is up at the top. There
22 we go.

23 MS. GRICE: Can you hear me?

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: We can hear you
25 quite well.

1 MS. GRICE: Thank you.

2 I would like to ask you if you could
3 please be patient. Mrs. Johnson, Bonnie Johnson, is
4 here with me. She has left her business and been
5 here quite a while, too, and after -- if she could
6 speak with me because we have to leave.

7 I'm here today because, first of all,
8 I would like to acknowledge the Honorable Chairman,
9 Assemblyman John Longville. I would also like to
10 thank you personally for bringing this hearing to San
11 Bernardino. I'd like to acknowledge Senator Nell
12 Soto, and I'd like to give personal recognition to a
13 young man I knew about 40 years ago that worked for a
14 Congressman named Jerry Pettis that didn't care
15 whether you was a Republican or a Democrat that
16 helped me start Operation Second Chance in the school
17 of opportunities.

18 And, Bill, I want to thank you for the
19 many years that you, after Congressman Pettis died,
20 the day that he died, the 14th, we were just going to
21 be able to go back to Washington, and we were
22 competing against 17,000 projects up in central. And
23 Bill Leonard had Mrs. Pettis take us back to
24 Washington and ask the California delegation to
25 support Operation Second Chance and the Public

1 Enterprise Center that so many blacks are involved in
2 today. And I want to give you that public
3 recognition and say thank you, Bill.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LEONARD: You're welcome.

5 MS. GRICE: I'd like to also go back in
6 history because I think that the only way that we can
7 talk about today, now that we have a new world order,
8 is we gotta go back. I remember years ago when me
9 and Art Townsend and Bonnie Johnson and Valerie and
10 the community leader mothers and all of us, and
11 Mr. -- from Detroit there, from A. Rudolf -- and I
12 remember when we were out there walking picket lines,
13 and Mr. Singleton was a young man that was studying
14 at Campus Crusade for Christ and he would come down
15 and work with us and we would walk picket lines.

16 I remember my son that said, "Mama,
17 you gonna save the world and lose me." My son died,
18 and I am here today because I don't want to lose that
19 legacy that he sacrificed his life for and that I
20 sacrificed it for.

21 I remember one year that -- after
22 Robert Kennedy died we brought our children together,
23 and our children sang about years of freedom,
24 yesterday's denial, and today's struggle for equal
25 rights. It seems that every time we make a move in

1 life, we sometimes become victimized by that move.
2 And as I, as many other minorities or whatever you
3 want to call us, am proud of ethnic diversity, but
4 not at the expense of black people.

5 I am very concerned that the census
6 has created a count in the 2000 census that
7 represents that we now have over a hundred possible
8 subcategories of the Afro-American community, which
9 leaves us out of the question, and you all say very
10 little. And I'm concerned about that. And I'm here
11 today to express that concern.

12 I'm also concerned today that we do
13 have a community of interest, and I'd like to give
14 you one example of what a community of interest is.
15 And the best way that -- and I prayed and thought and
16 visioned, "How can I say this, Lord?" And I think
17 that the best way to explain this is to talk about
18 the Jewish people.

19 The Jewish people have a community of
20 interest because nobody can explain the pains of the
21 Holocaust. Nobody can explain about years and years
22 of generations that somebody in the Jewish
23 communities' parents or relatives did not die of the
24 Holocaust. And I have to bring that back to the
25 black experience.

1 I don't care what we say about the
2 community of interest. Where we live, where we go,
3 nobody can explain the pain of slavery. Like my son
4 said, "Yesterday's denial and today's fight for equal
5 rights." Nobody can explain to us that -- no other
6 ethnic group can explain about slavery and what we
7 have had to do as a people to be here in America.
8 And as I sang "America the Beautiful," I cry like
9 every other American because it is so beautiful; but
10 I also weep for my ancestors that had to come, and
11 half of them died. And they say that we're so strong
12 today because only the strong genes survived those
13 slave ships.

14 And I would hope that ethnic diversity
15 will not be a process of elimination for black
16 America because we worked hard for America. We
17 fought for you. We walked with you. We built your
18 nations. We raised your children. We did everything
19 that we could to make this country strong, and we do
20 not deserve to be eliminated through a census count.

21 And I am asking you, Honorable
22 Chairman and the committee, to go back and look and
23 see how we have been able to be divided into a
24 hundred different possible subcategories as a black
25 community. I think that's the issue here today.

1 Because wherever I am, the black community is. But
2 when you can create me to not know who I am or who my
3 sisters -- and we used to always say you can tell a
4 sister by how big her nose was. If you had one inch
5 of black blood in you, you were black. What happened
6 to that blood? What happened to it?

7 The Constitution, as Adrian said, it
8 is three-fourths of a man. We have lived with that
9 degrading description of us for 200 years, and now
10 that it has become convenient to eliminate us, you
11 can eliminate us by creating us into 100
12 subcategories. This is not the America that I know.
13 This is not the America that my son said, "Mama,
14 you're saving the world and losing me."

15 I remember when we created the sixth
16 ward, and our towns and then me and a group of
17 Hispanics got together and we say, "You take this
18 neighborhood and you take this one." But we created
19 a community of interest that represented our heritage
20 and the suffering that we had been involved in as
21 people.

22 I cannot explain, and I would never
23 try to explain, the suffering that the Hispanics have
24 went through. Just like Dick Chaney said, he could
25 not explain to nobody how it felt to be a black man.

1 But I can explain the pain and the feeling of
2 slavery. And I know where my roots are, and I know
3 where the heritage is, and I don't care how many
4 subcategories you put us in, they're still black.

5 You eliminated affirmative action
6 based on race, and now you're eliminating us based on
7 a census count. And I'm sure that everyone has
8 spoken beautifully about their fine neighborhoods and
9 communities, but I would ask this committee to
10 please, please develop a resolution that will not
11 eliminate the black community and make us 100
12 subcategories of something that we don't even know
13 what it is.

14 Thank you very much.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: I'm not sure
16 if -- was Ms. Johnson was adding a little addendum to
17 what you were saying or -- because I know Pastor
18 Singleton -- I'm unclear here as to how this was --

19 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Frances. I am
20 Bonnie Johnson. I am the Inland Area Black Women's
21 Forum president. I was also president of the San
22 Bernardino Community League of Mothers when we
23 integrated the school system. At the time we
24 integrated San Bernardino school system, there were
25 no black administrators, there were no counselors,

1 and very few teachers.

2 To the Honorable John Longville and
3 all the distinguished members of the committee, we're
4 pleased to observe today that one of our own Inland
5 Empire residents have been selected to serve as
6 chairman of this very important committee. The
7 Inland Empire Black Women's Forum is an organization
8 that is dedicated to the inclusion of all elements of
9 the population in their own covenants. We are
10 especially concerned with preventing evolution of the
11 voting strength in our African-American community of
12 interest.

13 As you know, our community which has
14 in the past been described as the black or the
15 African-American community of interest has a long
16 history of active and effective participation in the
17 electoral process, in the election of representatives
18 will respond to and are capable to represent our
19 interests in the Inland Empire.

20 We are greatly concerned about the new
21 way that the census has divided the African-American
22 community into more than 100 plus subgroups. So many
23 people who were counted as African-Americans in 1990
24 will be counted in 2000 as some other race or as a
25 new other racial category. We are told that in

1 trying to avoid double counts in treating an ethnic
2 group as a new race, these changes were made. We do
3 not object to any other group being counted as
4 comprehensively as possible to protect their
5 interests. We're concerned, however, and we do not
6 here today register as our objection to the new
7 multi-racial and ethnic labels because the creation
8 of all of these new multi-racial categories will be
9 the result of significant decrease in the
10 African-American count and the power that goes with
11 it. We believe that this ultra-complex system that
12 requires 144 different racial combinations is
13 unworkable, unreasonable, and unfair to the shrinking
14 African-American community of interest.

15 We propose, therefore, that we be
16 counted by the State of California the same way as we
17 were counted in the past whereby anyone who was part
18 African-American will be classified as
19 African-American. We urge our committee to introduce
20 and pass a resolution of law which would require that
21 the African-American community of interest be counted
22 by their inclusive counting rather than be reduced
23 numbers which would decrease our total by 4.3
24 percent.

25 We also believe that because of the

1 2000 census confusion that we should cease to be
2 considered as a race and rather be defined as a
3 cohort of the African-American experience.

4 We join with the former San Bernardino
5 resident Adrian Dove who is research director of our
6 counterparts in Los Angeles County African-American
7 Advisory Committee of Redistricting proposing their
8 definition of cohorts of the African-American
9 experience, anyone descended one-eighth or more from
10 ancestors who are classified as three-fifths of a
11 person per Article Section 1 and Section 2 of the
12 Constitution of the United States.

13 Our specified recommendation: We
14 propose that the Assembly committee on redistricting
15 secure and Assembly and Senate resolution our laws
16 should be required that for purposes of redistricting
17 2001, that the African-American community of interest
18 be regarded as not a race and be labeled instead as a
19 cohort of their African-American community, and that
20 their numbers shall be drawn from the census 2000
21 category be called INC or inclusive black.

22 For too long as a child I knew about
23 the N word. Then there was another N word. Then
24 there was colored. Then there was black. Then there
25 was Afro-American. Then there's a two-drop law. If

1 you got two drops of black blood, then you're black.
2 We resolve today to resolve this issue to the
3 committee peacefully and willingly and fairly to the
4 black people of the United States of American.

5 Thank you.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
7 much.

8 And Pastor Singleton. And then we
9 will have council member Dierdre Bennett. And then
10 Reverend William Marshall will tell me who's coming
11 up next, and hopefully he'll tell that person who's
12 coming up next.

13 Pastor Singleton.

14 PASTOR SINGLETON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
15 Chairman Longville, to all of the members of the
16 panel, Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Pacheco,
17 our good friend Senator Soto, and to all of the other
18 members of the panel not here, to all of the
19 dignitaries that are gathered.

20 And we just heard some history. And
21 all of our history -- not all of our history is
22 written in books, unfortunately. Much of the history
23 of San Bernardino County, and particularly as it
24 relates to race and politics, needs to be written for
25 posterity, for the future. So I thank Frances Grice

1 for a wonderful presentation and the wonderful words
2 that she spoke reminding us of what has happened.

3 I am Chuck Singleton, last name
4 spelled S-i-n-g-l-e-t-o-n. I'm the pastor of
5 Loveland Church and a 20-some year member of the
6 community here, and wish to just say a few words.

7 Basically, as a preacher I came to say
8 amen. There's some folks that have already spoken.
9 I want to urge you not to say amen, however, because
10 that confuses preachers and I want to be brief.

11 But I remember a story of a son who'd
12 graduated from college, and he traveled the world,
13 shipping home to his mama an exotic and expensive
14 bird from abroad which spoke seven languages, a bird
15 speaking seven languages, only to find that when he
16 returned that his mother had defeathered, fried, and
17 served the bird for dinner. So he protested.

18 And his mother protested, "You mean it
19 was an expensive bird?"

20 "Yes, mother, it was an expensive
21 bird."

22 "And, son, he spoke seven languages?"

23 "Yes, mama. He spoke seven
24 languages."

25 "Well, then, son, he should have said

1 something," she said.

2 With all of the folks that have
3 spoken, we don't want to be guilty of not having said
4 something. And I think the words have been spoken so
5 well already. I've come, as I said, to say amen to
6 people who've talked about maintaining the integrity
7 of communities of interest, being able to be
8 represented by people that we know, people who have
9 shared a common experience with us as a part of our
10 communities, and people we work to elect to the
11 offices they now hold, including, of course, most
12 everyone who's on the panel.

13 Joe Baca's proposal for the 42nd
14 district, it's creative. It's -- maybe we'd even say
15 innovative with all the gerrymandering that has taken
16 place in the past, recognizing communities of
17 interest, an important principle that has been
18 shared. Recognizing, as well, potential to lose the
19 distinctiveness and the representation of the
20 African-American community is very important.

21 I want to urge you to take these
22 things -- I know others have already done that --
23 into consideration. I want to urge you, some
24 Democrats and some Republicans, in this case, when it
25 comes to drawing these lines, to be compassionately

1 conservative, to maintain the kind of representation
2 that we have.

3 We need your help. Your communities
4 need you at this point probably more than ever
5 before. What happens in the next 10 years is largely
6 in your hands, not only here in California, but in
7 Washington, as well. A lot of trust has been placed
8 in you. That's no surprise. You knew that when you
9 ran for office and were sworn in. We've prayed for
10 you. We've supported you. We ask you to do the same
11 for us now.

12 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
14 much, Pastor.

15 And Council Member Bennett.

16 We appreciate, by the way, everyone's
17 patience. I know this is a long day. Very much
18 appreciate everyone's kind presence.

19 MAYOR BENNETT: Thank you. My name is
20 Dierdre Bennett. I'm the mayor of Colton, and I'm
21 here to join my voice to the other elected officials
22 who have spoken before you, and to just add that
23 Colton would like to remain intact.

24 We have built many alliances with our
25 local representatives and the local cities as we've

1 worked together on issues such as transportation,
2 storm drains, and other areas of mutual concern. We
3 currently are a city that is divided by congressional
4 districts and supervisorial districts, and we would
5 really urge that you don't do that at the state
6 assembly and Senate positions.

7 Thank you for allowing me to come up
8 and speak today, and thank you for holding this in
9 San Bernardino.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
11 much. We appreciate your taking the time.

12 And we -- next.

13 REVEREND CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 The concluding speaker will be Mr. Rikke
15 Van-Johnson.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
17 much.

18 MR. VAN-JOHNSON: Good afternoon. My name is
19 Rikke van Johnson. That's R-i-k-k-e Van, common
20 spelling, Johnson, common spelling. I'm the social
21 outreach director at Elesia Christian Fellowship in
22 San Bernardino.

23 One of the greatest things in this
24 world is the opportunity to be of service to others.
25 We would like to extend to you who sit on the

1 Elections, Reapportionment, and Constitutional
2 Amendments Committee an opportunity to be of service
3 to the State of California in general and the Inland
4 Empire in particular. How? By drawing a
5 redistricting plan that does not erode the gains that
6 we have established as a people of common ancestry
7 who reside in and around the ebony triangle.

8 In this area exists a concentration of
9 people who not only share political, social,
10 cultural, and educational issues, but also a unique
11 history. We feel that this area, the ebony triangle,
12 needs to remain intact as a viable entity to
13 guarantee the best government possible in the State
14 of California.

15 Thank you.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
17 much, sir. We appreciate your taking the time, as
18 well, to be here.

19 Now I have a large group of people
20 still to be heard, and, again, I appreciate all of
21 your patience. And we're just taking them now
22 starting with -- I know we missed a few people, some
23 have had to leave. I apologize. This has been the
24 case at most hearings, actually, as they've gone on.
25 I have next Mr. Harvey Kessler who has

1 been waiting, I know, a very long time and came up
2 from Palm Desert. Mr. Kessler, you're next. And
3 then we will have John -- I believe it's Weiser,
4 W-e-i-s-e-r. I'm not sure if it's Weiser or Weiser,
5 from Cathedral City.

6 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, sir. I'm glad to be
7 here today in front of this auspicious group.

8 Today I'm speaking on behalf of a lady
9 who's a very dear friend of mine, Mrs. Sedalia
10 Sanders. She asked me to read something from her as
11 a -- she is a long-term resident of the City of El
12 Centro in Imperial County, which is part of the 80th
13 Assembly District. Ms. Sanders is a lifelong
14 resident of El Centro, which is the county seat of
15 Imperial County. It has a population of
16 approximately 40,000 people. Ms. Sanders has served
17 as an elected official as a city councilwoman in the
18 City of El Centro for 15 years from 1984 to 1999.
19 During that time, she served three terms as mayor.
20 She also served as a president of the California
21 League of Cities in 1995 and again in 1996, and is
22 the director for the National League of Cities in
23 1996, '7, and '8.

24 She supports the -- she wants me to
25 speak in reference to and in support of the proposed

1 changes made by the Honorable Mr. Greg Pettis and
2 Honorable Gary Bosworth that you heard earlier this
3 evening -- or earlier today. Excuse me. It seems
4 like this evening since we all started here this
5 morning.

6 Anyway, basically, she supports the
7 state redistricting to include Imperial County along
8 a northerly direction up to and including the
9 Coachella Valley. The Coachella Valley, for those
10 who may not live in our area or don't have the
11 privilege of knowing it, basically includes from Palm
12 Springs, Cathedral City all the way out to the
13 western and the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea takes in
14 approximately one-third in Riverside County and
15 two-thirds in Imperial County.

16 Her positions are stated as such in
17 support of this contiguity -- boy, that's a
18 mouthful. Imperial County and Coachella Valley share
19 a common landmass linked by Highway 86 and by
20 Highway 111 going from Palm Springs down to Calexico
21 at the Mexican border.

22 You heard, I believe, Mr. Pettis or
23 Mr. Bosworth speak earlier about its relation to
24 NAFTA, Highway 86 coming across through Mexicali into
25 Calexico, which is on the American side of the

1 border. Okay. Preservation and protection of the
2 continuities of interest, she said, both communities
3 are rural in nature, tied together under the umbrella
4 of the Southern California Association of
5 Governments, SCAG, as you heard Mr. Pettis refer to
6 it earlier this morning. They also share common
7 interest in natural resources. For example, but not
8 to the deference of anything else, agriculture,
9 water, transportation, land use, and share a common
10 interest in social economic issues such as housing,
11 educational, and health care needs.

12 It would also protect us from diluting
13 the voting strength of the racial or linguistic
14 minorities that is very prevalent within the
15 Coachella Valley and Imperial County. Both Imperial
16 and Coachella Valley have a large Hispanic Latino
17 population. Without taking this fact into
18 consideration would greatly dilute the voting
19 strength of this group.

20 Term limits, against the backdrop of
21 conflicting views of the Voting Rights Act and the
22 shifting of population and demographic trends gives a
23 new meaning to the word "fairness." As the Public
24 Policy Institute of California said so eloquently in
25 its research brief issue number 46, which was

1 published in June of 2001, "Evidence suggests that
2 connecting multi-ethnic, socially-compatible groups
3 would allow for greater political participation."

4 "Therefore," Ms. Sanders says, "I urge
5 you to give strong consideration for this
6 recommendation."

7 Thank you, gentlemen.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
9 much, sir. We appreciate your taking the time to be
10 here, especially with the long wait.

11 MR. KESSLER: Thank you.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Next is John
13 Weiser or Weiser? I apologize for --

14 MR. WEISER: Weiser.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Weiser. Excuse
16 me. And where are you? Oh, there you are.

17 MR. WEISER: Yeah, right here. John Weiser,
18 W-e-i-s-e-r. I live in Cathedral City. I'll keep it
19 very brief.

20 I'm here to support the proposal of
21 Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pettis and Councilman Bosworth. A
22 lot has been said already about the reasons for this
23 proposal the way it is, and I would just like to say
24 that, basically, we all live in the desert, and
25 that's definitely our community of interest we

1 share. Try to survive the heat and so forth. We
2 like living on the periphery for some reason.

3 And I think that the nature of the
4 valley, the Coachella Valley, Imperial County, has
5 been changing. There's a lot of growth and a great
6 Hispanic influx, and I think that the district, a new
7 proposed district should -- the people in this
8 area -- in that area deserve a voice that represents
9 them and me. And if you have to exclude an area
10 because -- for population reasons, it makes sense to
11 exclude that particular portion that is so distinct
12 from the rest.

13 So I think everything has been said
14 that needs to be said, and I'll wrap it up, and thank
15 you for your consideration.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
17 much for taking the time to be here, Mr. Weiser. I
18 appreciate it.

19 Next I have Mr. Tom Swann with the
20 Veterans Caucus; and after Mr. Swann, we have omitted
21 another elected official. I have Council Member
22 Brenda Salas after Mr. Swann from the City of
23 Banning, and then we'll have Mr. Fred -- and I
24 apologize. Sometimes I have trouble with the
25 handwriting. It's Bilodeau?

1 MR. BILODEAU: Bilodeau.

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Bilodeau. Excuse
3 me. -e-a-u. Okay. Bilodeau. Excuse me.

4 MR. BILODEAU: French. It's French.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: At the end, I
6 couldn't tell whether that last letter was a U or an
7 R there. Excuse me, Mr. Bilodeau. Thank you.

8 Mr. Swann, you have the microphone.

9 MR. SWANN: Bless your heart. Thank you,
10 Honorable Chairperson Mr. Longville, for letting a
11 blind, disabled veteran speak, and thank you for the
12 accommodation for disabled, and we did come out from
13 the desert. Also I want to recognize State Senator
14 Soto. Thank you on behalf of our veterans.

15 I wear many hats, Mr. Chairman. I'm
16 wearing a Marine Corps hat today, and I'm speaking
17 today on behalf of two groups: AmVets, which stands
18 for American Veterans, and the District Nine
19 Commander, which represents San Bernardino and
20 Riverside Counties. I'm also the founding chair of
21 the California Democratic Party Veterans Caucus.

22 I'll be brief, but I do have to say,
23 Mr. Longville, thank you and God bless you because
24 you voted the other day on your leadership on veteran
25 issues. You supported the bill which will improve

1 the health care our veterans are getting in our
2 nursing homes. Thank you all for that vote.

3 And let me just say that the AmVets,
4 which is non-partisan, took a look at the
5 Bosworth/Pettis plan in that map, and it follows
6 along with where our veterans social centers are, and
7 it follows along where our veteran posts are, and
8 certainly veterans, though they are diverse, the fact
9 that we have active veterans and we have the veteran
10 social centers, that is a community of interest. And
11 also I want to say that the Democratic Veterans
12 Caucus, the Legislative Committee of the Democratic
13 Veterans Caucus also backed that plan.

14 And because we're a statewide group --
15 I'll wrap this up, Mr. Chairman, but because we're a
16 statewide organization, the legislative committee
17 also wanted to go on record saying that we strongly
18 support the plan, the current district that
19 Representative Bob Filner holds. For two reasons:
20 One, he is -- he and Lane Evans of Illinois are the
21 two national leaders on veterans affairs in the
22 house.

23 Secondly, the Filipino veterans who
24 are in that congressional district, that is
25 definitely a community of interest. They served in

1 World War II. They have not had their benefits.
2 They're heroes. We'll be honoring them next weekend,
3 John, in Sacramento, and we need to keep that
4 community of interest together. And Bob Filner is
5 their national hero because he sponsored the equity
6 bill.

7 Now, Cynthia Davis is here. She's
8 also on our board, I'll defer to her because I'm
9 blind, if I have not read anything or I've forgot
10 anything.

11 Do you want to add, Cindy? Go ahead.

12 MS. DAVIS: No. I'll be up here in a few
13 minutes myself.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
15 much for taking the time, again, to come out from the
16 desert out here, Mr. Swann. We appreciate it.

17 I have Council Member Salas, and
18 after Council Member Salas will be Mr. Bilodeau
19 followed by Mr. Steve McGrew.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAS: Hello and good
21 afternoon. I thank you very much for allowing myself
22 and many others here to speak.

23 I represent not only the City of
24 Banning, but, also, I'm an alternate to the community
25 action agency here in Riverside, and also a resident

1 of the City of Banning and within the County of
2 Riverside. Again, I thank you so much for listening
3 to our concerns.

4 I'm here to speak of the community
5 interests. As far as our area, the pass area which
6 consists of Banning, Beaumont, Cabazon, Hemet, Cala
7 Mesa, and it also includes Redlands and the City
8 of -- excuse me. I'm quite nervous here. Well, for
9 those of you, first of all, who wonder where Banning
10 is, it's not in the middle of the cows, but pretty
11 much close.

12 And, again, our area consists of
13 major -- it needs jobs, economic development, and
14 transportation are major issues in our area. It's
15 quite a difficult situation for groups and leaders
16 working within the areas to get together as far as
17 our 65th district is concerned since they are
18 bi-counties. It's been really difficult for many
19 people, regardless of party lines, regardless of
20 economic background, and so on and so forth.

21 It would be just a recommendation,
22 suggestion, nice to have a place where it wouldn't be
23 so far. As far as the mountains, we have the Morongo
24 basin, which consists of Yucca Valley, 29 Palms, and
25 the high desert, and so that extends on, which is San

1 Bernardino County, as you're familiar with.

2 And this being a bi-county has made it
3 difficult as far as transportation means which are
4 many concerns which have been brought to many of our
5 local leaders. While there's the split, the
6 unification is important as far as the ethnicity is
7 concerned, economic backgrounds, again, and party
8 lines of all interests.

9 Again, there's struggles of low
10 income, housing, dilapidation, and needs for
11 employment for our residents in the areas.

12 Again, I thank you and just wanted to
13 make it brief; and as a representative to the public,
14 I'm here to ask for your serious consideration in any
15 way in which I'm sure that you're working on, and,
16 again, thank you.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
18 much, Council Member. We appreciate it.

19 And now, Mr. Bilodeau, whom I've only
20 met about a half a dozen times, I apologize for
21 goofing up with your handwriting, Mr. Bilodeau.

22 MR. BILODEAU: That's fine. It's been goofed
23 up several times before that, and I'm sure it will be
24 goofed up several times after that.

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Sir, before you

1 begin, let me just note so that they'll be prepared
2 that after you will be Mr. Steven McGrew followed by
3 Ms. Cynthia Davis.

4 MR. BILODEAU: Again, my name is Mr. Fred
5 Bilodeau. That's B-i-l-o-d-e-a-u.

6 Good afternoon, again, Mr. Longville
7 and your distinguished panel, and thank you for
8 giving me the opportunity to speak. I live in
9 Cathedral City, and I'm here representing that I am
10 the chair of the Stonewall -- Desert Stonewall Club,
11 and am also a member of the Stonewall Federation
12 nationally, which is in Washington, D.C. I'm a
13 member of the board there. And, as you probably well
14 know, we represent mainly the desires and the needs
15 of the gay and lesbian transgender and transsexual
16 communities of our communities.

17 And we have looked at the Greg Pettis
18 plan and Mr. Bob Bosworth plan and we, too, agree
19 that it's a very, very, very good plan. Like so many
20 other communities, we have our triangles of LGBT, and
21 it fits our needs. We have our -- we also believe in
22 one person, one vote. We are interested in the
23 valley's growth, which everyone knows the Coachella
24 Valley is growing at a tremendous rate; and,
25 therefore, many, many, many needs are looked at,

1 along with the ethnic values that you've been talking
2 about and diversity that you've been talking about,
3 transportation that you've been talking about and
4 also different committees that deal with different
5 communities. This plan deals with, I think, the best
6 of any of them, and -- that we have seen, anyway, and
7 I'm very, very glad that our club has endorsed this
8 particular plan, and we hope that you will also.

9 Thank you very much.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
11 much, Mr. Bilodeau. We appreciate it.

12 And next I have Mr. McGrew, and after
13 Steve McGrew will be Ms. Cynthia Davis followed by
14 Ms. Nina Cherry.

15 MR. MC GREW: I'm Steven, with a V, McGrew
16 M-c-G-r-e-w. I'm a board member of the California
17 Alliance of Pride and Equality, which is a statewide
18 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer
19 advocacy group. Also, for the Rainbow Council, which
20 is an advocacy group for gays and lesbians here in
21 the Inland Empire.

22 And I want to talk about the community
23 of interest which is the often overlooked, which is
24 the gay and lesbian community. Though here in the
25 Inland Empire we do not have really a sphere of

1 influence, we're dispersed equally throughout the
2 Inland Empire. In the Coachella Valley, there are
3 high concentrations of gays and lesbians, and to
4 dilute any one of area of gays and lesbians would
5 hurt our community, which is just now recovering from
6 the devastation of HIV and AIDS. Areas like
7 Hillcrest in San Diego, the Broadway corridor in Long
8 Beach, West Hollywood and Silver Lake, and, of
9 course, San Francisco need to be kept together. We
10 cannot let the gay and lesbian community be
11 disbursed.

12 Basically, that's all I wanted to say.
13 Think of us as a community of interest. We're often
14 overlooked. When the census data for California on
15 the LGBT community is released, I hope you take that
16 into consideration because it hasn't been released
17 yet for California.

18 Thank you.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
20 much for appearing before us, Mr. McGrew. We
21 appreciate your time.

22 Ms. Cynthia Davis is next, followed by
23 Ms. Nina Cherry, who will be followed by -- and,
24 again, I apologize in advance if I'm reading
25 incorrectly. It's E-l-l-e. I'm pronouncing it Elle

1 but it could be Elle. I'm not sure which.

2 MS. KURPIEWSKI: Elle.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Elle. Okay.
4 Kurpiewski.

5 MS. KURPIEWSKI: Yes. That was perfect.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Okay. Terrific.
7 Thank you. It's just the short ones I have trouble
8 with. Thank you.

9 MS. DAVIS: Good afternoon. Thank you for
10 having your hearings here which is wonderful because
11 it's so close to the desert. My name is Cynthia
12 Davis. I live in Cathedral City. I wear many hats
13 in the desert that I'm not going to go into right
14 now, but I am here because I have heard and read and
15 studied the plans that the Honorable Greg Pettis,
16 Mayor Pro Tem of Cathedral City, and Gary Bosworth,
17 who is a councilman from Desert Hot Springs, have put
18 forth; and I think it is a marvelous plan. I think
19 it is a very fair and equitable plan that will
20 give -- will really benefit all those in the desert.

21 Now, this proposed district has been
22 designed to combine the parts of the current 80th AD
23 that are the most alike. As a result, the district
24 encompasses all of Imperial County, the desert area
25 of Riverside County directly north of Imperial

1 County, plus the parts of the Coachella Valley that
2 are most like the Imperial County and the other
3 desert areas of eastern Riverside County. The
4 Coachella Valley comprises the western portion of the
5 district. The Coachella Valley is bounded on the
6 north, west, and south by mountain ranges, while the
7 eastern part of the Coachella Valley flows seamlessly
8 into the rest of the desert of eastern Riverside
9 County. As a matter of fact, the Coachella Valley,
10 together with the rest of eastern and Imperial
11 County, all form an area that is commonly referred to
12 as the lower desert.

13 These areas not only are joined by
14 their common desert characteristics, they are mostly
15 rural and their chief economy is agriculture based,
16 followed by a burgeoning desert tourism industry.
17 The only parts of the Coachella Valley that are not
18 included are the most suburban areas of the Coachella
19 that do not reflect the areas that are included.

20 These communities not included are
21 Indian Wells, Palm Desert, Bermuda Dunes, and
22 La Quinta. These areas are well known for their
23 wealth. In addition, these areas have no
24 agriculture, and are not in any sense of the name --
25 have much in common with the rest of the areas.

1 The differences are reflected by, for
2 example, drastically higher property values. Ethnic
3 makeup is a direct opposite of the rest of the -- is
4 a direct opposite of the rest of the adjoining area.
5 For example, 21 percent Hispanic and 73 percent Anglo
6 versus 60 percent Hispanic and 30 percent Anglo in
7 the adjoining areas. Drastically lower average
8 household size, twice the percentage of registered
9 voters per population, significantly higher average
10 age of population, and about half the percentage of
11 children under 18. So there is not a commonality of
12 interest in these areas.

13 The rest of the Coachella Valley is
14 kept within the proposed district. This includes the
15 communities of Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs in
16 the west, Cathedral City, Thousand Palms, Rancho
17 Mirage, Indio, Coachella, Mecca, Thermal, eastward
18 through the desert center to Blythe on the far
19 eastern boundary of Riverside County and all of
20 Imperial County to the south, including the Salton
21 Sea, with the surrounding community of Salton Sea,
22 Salton City, Salton Sea Beach, and southward all the
23 way to El Centro and Calexico in the Mexican border.

24 Thank you very much.

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very

1 much, Ms. Davis. We appreciate it.

2 And next is Nina Cherry, Ms. Nina
3 Cherry. And after Ms. Cherry, will be Elle
4 Kurpiewski followed by Mr. Harold F. Spangenberg.

5 MS. CHERRY: Good afternoon. My name is Nina
6 Cherry. N-i-n-a C-h-e-r-r-y. I'm here as a person
7 with multiple hats, as many others are. I am a
8 student at Cal State Pomona. I'm also a substitute
9 teacher in the Ontario/Montclair School District, but
10 I'm here most particularly as an 18-year resident of
11 the City of Mira Loma, which is not actually a city
12 but in the northwest corner of unincorporated
13 Riverside County.

14 My concerns are not with my Assembly
15 District nor my Senate district because we have been
16 adequately represented by both Assemblyman Pacheco
17 and with Senator Hanes.

18 My concerns lie with our congressional
19 district and our representation. We use that term
20 loosely when we say representation in terms of
21 Congressman Calvert. My neighbors and I have been
22 forced to sit idly by while Congressman Calvert has
23 ignored the wants, needs, and desires of the northern
24 and poorer part of his district. The 43rd
25 Congressional District, particularly the area called

1 Hurupa Valley --

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: A little slower.

3 MS. CHERRY: Oh, sorry. I'll pretend I'm
4 talking to my classes.

5 The 43rd Congressional District,
6 particularly the area called Hurupa Valley, has
7 undergone a significant demographic shift. We no
8 longer share a common interest with the balance of
9 our district. Hurupa Valley, which is bordered by
10 the Santa Ana River on the south and east sides and
11 by the county line on the north and west sides,
12 shares more common interests with the Cities of
13 Fontana, Chino, and Ontario, rather than with the
14 Cities of Corona, Lake Elsinore, and Murrietta, where
15 our only bond is the common county.

16 With the lines as they are, the
17 concept of one person, one vote is just that. A
18 concept. I urge you to please take the people into
19 consideration, not just the statistics, when you
20 consider the communities of interest. Hurupa Valley
21 is a community of interest. This community includes
22 the areas known as Mira Loma, Glenn Avon, Pedley,
23 Rubideau, and there's one other one. I forget what
24 it is. They keep changing.

25 Please do not force us to endure ten

1 more years of the same treatment that we have been
2 subjected to by Congressman Calvert.

3 Thank you.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
5 much, Ms. Cherry.

6 Our next witness is Ms. Elle
7 Kurpiewski, followed by Mr. Harold Spangenberg, who
8 will be followed by Mr. Paul Marchand.

9 MS. KURPIEWSKI: I promise I'll spell my
10 name. It's Elle, E-l-l-e, and it's K-u-r-p- as in
11 Peter -i-e-w-s-k-i.

12 I am a union representative with my
13 union, the Association of Flight Attendants. I am
14 their legislative affairs chairperson. I, therefore,
15 spend quite a bit of time in Washington, D.C. dealing
16 with different congressmen and women. I have also,
17 however, been a resident of the Coachella Valley for
18 over 13 years now. I have been a visitor to the
19 Coachella Valley for over 25 years. I come here
20 today as a long-time political activist, and I make a
21 simple request.

22 Unlike many of my fellow neighbors
23 from the Coachella Valley, I am not in complete
24 agreement with the redistricting plan as set forth by
25 Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pettis. I feel this way because I

1 feel that the Coachella Valley must remain whole.
2 With great respect to those who have spoken here
3 today -- it is still just one day, isn't it? Okay --
4 I have another idea that I'd like to be placed for
5 consideration.

6 Our valley is changing. To say that
7 Palm Desert and other areas that they wish to break
8 off are not in compliance or in the same feelings as,
9 say, Cathedral City or the Imperial Valley, I think
10 is not fair. The valley is changing, and it is
11 changing rapidly. The demographics alone will tell
12 you that. As a result, I feel that the people, all
13 the people of the Coachella Valley, share common
14 goals and common dreams with regard to education,
15 with regard to transportation, with regard to
16 services to their values and their wants and desires
17 for the future.

18 May I respectfully recommend an
19 examination of the following: A valley that would
20 include from the Arizona border to the San
21 Fernando -- I'm sorry -- San Bernardino border to
22 Imperial and the Banning/Beaumont. This would keep
23 our beautiful Coachella Valley intact.

24 We have common goals, as I said
25 earlier. I believe that the demographics are showing

1 this. I think that we are a changing, dynamic area,
2 and I think that we can learn from each other.
3 Splitting off things is not the way, in my personal,
4 very humble opinion, to do that. I think rather I'd
5 like to see the Coachella Valley remain as it is, a
6 whole and beautiful desert so that all of us can
7 continue to share those goals and needs that we have
8 for the future.

9 I thank you for your time.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
11 much, Mrs. Kurpiewski. I appreciate your time.

12 And now we have Mr. Harold
13 Spangenberg, who will be followed by Mr. Paul
14 Marchand, and followed by Robert Marchand.

15 MR. SPANGENBERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
16 for allowing me to speak today. My name is Harold
17 Spangenberg, S-p-a-n-g-e-n-b-e-r-g. My brother is a
18 Spangenberg so you don't have to worry about --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Please excuse me
20 for the mispronunciation.

21 MR. SPANGENBERG: You were close enough. Thank
22 you.

23 I am interested to notice there were
24 no officials from Hemet or San Jacinto in the room
25 today. I come here as a president of the Democrats

1 of San Jacinto. Most of our members are retired --
2 my wife and I are the younger people in our group --
3 as are most of the residents of the Hemet area.

4 One of our concerns that has been
5 voiced to me by many of our members is the splitting
6 of Hemet into three Assembly Districts. On the south
7 side of the railroad tracks, you're in 66; if you go
8 on the north side, you're in 65th; if you go down
9 little further north, you're in the 80th. We would
10 at least to have consideration given to moving the
11 66th, either all of 66 or moving the 65th back to
12 DeMonegoni Highway. I have trouble with that word.
13 But anyway, down there and including more of the
14 Hemet neighbors in the same Assembly District. We
15 keep bouncing back and forth, and you don't know if
16 your neighbor across the road is in the 65th, 66th,
17 or where they are. And that would be a -- we don't
18 have any plan made, just a recommendation by many of
19 our members that we'd like to see it moved to include
20 all the new development in the Hemet area, as well as
21 the new high school down to the DeMonegoni Highway.

22 I thank you for the opportunity to
23 speak to you. Thank you for having the meeting down
24 in this area. Thank you.

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very

1 much, Mr. Spangenberg, for taking the time to be
2 here, as well.

3 First Mr. Paul Marchand, followed by
4 Mr. Robert Marchand, followed by Mr. David -- let's
5 see. It's Mr. David Lara-Trilez.

6 (Discussion held off the record.)

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you. Go
8 ahead, Mr. Marchand.

9 MR. PAUL MARCHAND: Good afternoon,
10 Mr. Longville and members of the committee. Paul
11 Spencer Marchand. I live in Cathedral City. I
12 practice law in Palm Springs. I have to apologize in
13 advance, my prepared notes have been edited during
14 the course of today to the point of complete
15 illegibility, so I cannot lodge a copy with you at
16 this time. Although if the committee gives leave, I
17 would be happy to lodge them subsequently.

18 It is my privilege and my pleasure to
19 be able to rise in support of the 80th Assembly
20 redistricting plan that has been put before you by
21 Mr. Pettis and Mr. Bosworth, my good friends. As a
22 Cathedral City resident and as a local activist, I
23 look upon communities of interest very carefully. I
24 serve as president of the Palm Springs Desert
25 Communities chapter of PFLAG, Parents, Families, and

1 Friends of Lesbians and Gays. I also have the honor
2 to serve as Cathedral City's representative to the
3 board of trustees of the -- please do not laugh --
4 Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control
5 District. We are the lords of the flies.

6 As a California native, Southern
7 California native, born and bred and as, in fact, the
8 descendant of Native Americans, who, by the way,
9 until 1880 weren't even considered a fraction of a
10 person at American law, I would like to thank my good
11 friend Mr. Pettis for his cogent and illusive
12 exposition of the Native American heritage of our low
13 desert. It's a heritage about which I would expect
14 my good friend Raven Lopez Workman wants to address
15 you further, as well.

16 But in considering the redistricting
17 plan that Mayor Pro Tem Pettis and Counsel Member
18 Bosworth have put before you, we have to acknowledge
19 something. Let's tell the truth and shame the devil
20 and acknowledge that the plan isn't perfect. There
21 are going to be problems with any plan, no matter how
22 well conceived, because as human beings, perfection
23 evades us. But I'd like to bring it down to
24 something the California Supreme Court wrote in its
25 fourth opinion and decision, the final decision, in

1 the case of Legislature against Reinake, 1973, 10
2 Cal. 3d 396.

3 One of the criteria, of course, the
4 court was dealing with was communities of interest.
5 The court writes, "The community of interest of the
6 population of the population of an area should be
7 considered in determining whether the area should be
8 included within or excluded from a proposed district
9 so that all of the citizens of the district may be
10 represented reasonably, fairly, and effectively."
11 Reinake at page 402.

12 In drawing the proposed district
13 boundaries, Mayor Pro Tem Pettis and Mr. Bosworth
14 reviewed very carefully the communities of interest
15 present in our low desert. What's become clear from
16 that review is something we've all known in the low
17 desert, Coachella Valley, and Imperial County for a
18 very long time. To put matters bluntly, substantial
19 numbers of us are not being represented reasonably,
20 fairly, or effectively. In large part this is
21 because prior and current reapportionments have been
22 driven by a perception of our Coachella and Imperial
23 Valleys that is increasingly out of touch with our
24 reality.

25 Traditionally, the perception of the

1 Coachella Valley in particular has been one that
2 populates it exclusively with conservative, wealthy
3 Anglo retirees. Such a view was problematic and
4 flawed when the last reapportionment came around, and
5 it is even more so today. Our low desert looks and
6 sounds a lot more like the rest of California than
7 has been assumed, for increasingly, the demographic
8 of the Coachella Valley and Imperial County is one in
9 which Native Americans, Latinos, and other Americans
10 of color increasingly predominate. Increasing
11 numbers of Coachella Valley residents are year-round,
12 middle class working people, and increasing numbers
13 of us are gay or lesbian.

14 Unfortunately, under the current
15 dispensation, our access to our legislators is a
16 sometimes thing at best and often an impossibility
17 altogether.

18 A very good friend of mine relates a
19 story that puts the matter in perspective. He was
20 working a voter registration table in Palm Springs at
21 the Village Fest -- which I hope, by the way, all of
22 you will take an opportunity to come and have some
23 fun at -- when an elderly Anglo couple walked by. As
24 they passed, my good friend could hear the wife say
25 to the husband in a rather shocked tone, "Dear, this

1 isn't our valley anymore."

2 And, in truth, it is not. The plan
3 which Mr. Bosworth and Mayor Pro Tem Pettis have laid
4 before you recognizes that in many ways two distinct
5 low deserts have emerged. There is that traditional
6 Coachella Valley populated by Anglo retirees, but
7 there is also the remainder of the low desert
8 populated by a diverse community. We in that other
9 valley, that other low desert, have become
10 justifiably weary of indifferent and out-of-touch
11 representation that does not acknowledge the issues
12 that matter to us.

13 The time has come to acknowledge the
14 division of the low desert along community lines of
15 interest. Disparate communities should not be
16 relegated together, and the time has come to
17 acknowledge that the Reinake court was right when it
18 said that sometimes fairness requires exclusion
19 rather than inclusion.

20 You have the proposals before you. It
21 isn't necessary for me to revisit them in detail, but
22 it is appropriate to observe, however, that by
23 candidly acknowledging the fact that the low desert
24 is now two separate communities of interest, and by
25 redrawing district lines accordingly, both

1 communities of interest, both the old wealthy Anglo
2 community of interest in Palm Desert, La Quinta,
3 Indian Wells, and -- pardon me, Bermuda Dunes --
4 thank you -- will see -- and the new community that
5 is emerging, from Desert Hot Springs to Palm Springs
6 to Cathedral City east to Indio and south into
7 Imperial County, both communities will see their
8 chances for reasonable, fair, and effective
9 representation enhanced.

10 Now, there are protests that
11 individual inhabitants may lose their voice or be
12 disenfranchised; and, in truth, no plan is perfect.
13 No plan will satisfy everybody, and at some point
14 somebody's ox is going to get gored. But this plan
15 offers more opportunity for reasonable, fair, and
16 effective representation to more people of whatever
17 community of interest than does any other plan
18 currently under discussion. Of course, the plan
19 isn't perfect; but, though imperfect, it is the best
20 plan, and I respectfully urge its consideration and
21 adoption by this committee.

22 Thank you very much. And thank you
23 for coming here and not making us go all the way to
24 Sacramento.

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very

1 much, Mr. Marchand.

2 And we have another Mr. Marchand,
3 Robert Marchand this time, who will be followed by --

4 MR. ROBERT MARCHAND: And, yes, we are
5 related.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: And,
7 Mr. Marchand, let it be known that also you will be
8 followed by Mr. David Lara-Trilez, who would be
9 followed by, I think, Steve Klut, but I think Steve
10 had left. But if Steve's in the building, he's next,
11 or Mr. Art Garcia will be the next name I have.

12 MR. ROBERT MARCHAND: My name is Robert
13 Marchand. It's spelled M- as in
14 Michael -a-r-c-h-a-n-d. I live in Cathedral City.
15 I've lived there for 10 years. I am retired. I'm
16 retired from working in arts administration for
17 various government programs in Los Angeles,
18 California; Maryland, and with the National Endowment
19 for the Arts. And in my retirement I am a member of
20 the Public Arts Commission for Cathedral City and the
21 Coachella Valley Arts Alliance. That's what I do
22 with my spare time in my retirement.

23 But to the point of today's meeting.
24 I am also a member of the Democrats of the Desert and
25 of the Stonewall Democrats and of the 80th Assembly

1 AD Democratic Committee. And I simply want to -- I'm
2 going to be very brief. I want to apprise the
3 committee that the Democrats of the Desert at a
4 special meeting held on the 9th of June of this year
5 to examine the proposed plan for reapportionment
6 consider the plan, had many, many questions on it,
7 had a lengthy discussion -- it was the only item on
8 the agenda -- and at the end of the meeting, the
9 Democrats of the Desert voted to endorse the plan as
10 adopted -- as proposed by the 80th AD with no
11 dissenting votes.

12 Thank you very much.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: That you very
14 much, Mr. Marchand.

15 I believe next I have Mr. David
16 Lara-Trilez.

17 And, Mr. Marchand, just out of
18 curiosity, any relationship with Nancy Marchand?

19 MR. ROBERT MARCHAND: I used to tease people
20 that she was my daughter, but she never saw the humor
21 in that.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: I can appreciate
23 that. All right.

24 Mr. Trilez.

25 MR. LARA-TRILEZ: Thank you, Chairman

1 Longville and members of the committee. I first
2 wanted to thank you, Chair, for having included
3 Riverside County, even though it's being held in San
4 Bernardino County, for having reached out, and I
5 think that we were well attended by members of
6 Riverside County, as well.

7 I'm sure, as you know, the census
8 showed Riverside County to be the fastest growing
9 county in California. For that reason, I certainly
10 feel that it would be very important to focus on
11 Riverside County. I would like to say that I have
12 for over three years served as chairman of the
13 Riverside County Democratic Central Committee; and
14 the Riverside County Democratic Central Committee
15 did, at their last meeting -- we did endorse the
16 Bosworth/Pettis proposal for the redistricting of the
17 80th AD. And so our committee is on record having
18 supported that.

19 Also, we definitely -- I definitely
20 want to express that Riverside County, because it was
21 the fastest growing county in the state, definitely
22 has to be looked at for any new districts that are
23 formed. Certainly we are looking -- we are hoping
24 that there will be at least an Assembly District and
25 a Senate district in our county that would be formed

1 because of our growth. And as many of the members of
2 my committee know, I'm a real homer for Moreno
3 Valley. I've lived in Moreno Valley for 12 years,
4 and I do feel that a new district should be anchored
5 in Moreno Valley. There should be a new district,
6 and Moreno Valley should be the anchor. The board of
7 supervisors realized that when they redistricted the
8 5th supervisor district in Riverside County, and I
9 would hope that on the state level the same thing
10 would happen.

11 I would also like to express the
12 concerns of Hemet. Hemet is not that large a
13 community, and has been split up into three
14 districts. Really does make sense to have them in
15 one district, as it does with Pomona.

16 I know that I saw a friend of mine,
17 Mike Swattis, here from the Pomona One Committee, and
18 I know that committee has existed for a long time.
19 And there is -- it is important that members of a
20 particular area know what district they're in. And I
21 know that people who have moved into Hemet, very
22 often, because there's three different Assembly
23 Districts, they're not even sure. We've gone out
24 there to do voter registration, and they're not sure
25 of what is going -- of what district they're in.

1 Regarding Moreno Valley, I think it's
2 very important to point out that Moreno Valley is
3 very much a microcosm of California. Moreno Valley
4 is now a majority minority community, and that
5 obviously seems to be the way the state is going, as
6 well. And I think that Moreno Valley does need to
7 have its influence felt. I think some of the things
8 can be addressed in redistricting; some of them we
9 have to do ourselves. Moreno Valley is a bedroom
10 community, and traditionally we have a lower turnout
11 than other areas within the same districts, the 65th
12 Assembly District or the 5th supervisorial district.
13 When the voting comes in, you see that very often
14 Moreno Valley does not have the turnout of the other
15 communities in its area.

16 Our committee, our central committee,
17 has tried to address this, not only in Moreno Valley
18 but countywide, through voter registration, but, more
19 importantly, through absentee ballots. For bedroom
20 communities, the absentee ballot is going to be a
21 very important factor. And, in fact, in the special
22 election Moreno Valley -- in a special election for
23 the 65th Assembly District, there was -- almost half
24 the ballots cast were cast by absentee. So that is
25 going to increase the turnout in Moreno Valley. I

1 would encourage you to look at the voting patterns in
2 Moreno Valley when you're doing the redistricting,
3 and, once again, would just like to echo the support
4 for the proposal for the 80th AD.

5 Thank you.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
7 much.

8 And before we go to the next person, I
9 was reminded that a few minutes ago I was asked to
10 allow us another brief break. I'm going to call this
11 one only five minutes because the 10 minutes ended up
12 12. So I'm going to call this one five minutes.

13 Many people wonder how you get to be
14 chair. The primary consideration they look for is a
15 large bladder, but I understand many people don't
16 share this ability, so we will take a five-minute
17 break.

18 (Recess taken.)

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: We're going to
20 begin again, ladies and gentlemen. And our last
21 speaker was Mr. David Lara-Trilez. We'll go now to
22 Mr. Art Garcia, and will be followed by Mr. Walter
23 Jarman of NOBLE, the National Organization of Black
24 Law Enforcement Executives, I believe is the name, if
25 I remember the acronym correctly, and then Mr. Roy

1 Hernandez.

2 So, Mr. Garcia. Okay. If Mr. Garcia
3 is not here, we'll go to Mr. Jarman, and we'll keep
4 looking for Mr. Garcia, and we'll take him either/or,
5 whoever is here first. Okay. We'll take Mr. Jarman
6 or Mr. Hernandez. Mr. Roy Hernandez. Okay. I'm
7 just going to keep reading them until the first one
8 comes to the microphone here.

9 Ms. Barbara Dew.

10 MS. DEW: Yes.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Ms. Barbara Dew?

12 MS. DEW: Yes.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Okay. If you
14 want to testify, we'll take you. We have several
15 people that --

16 MR. DEW: And I'm also going to bring my
17 husband, too, Lionel.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Mr. Lionel Dew is
19 listed right after you. Go ahead together, and then
20 we'll go back to see if the other people have been --
21 have shown up.

22 MS. DEW: Thank you for coming down. I
23 really appreciate being here and having the
24 opportunity to speak.

25 I'm from the 64th district and the

1 17th district. Not very many people have spoken in
2 that area about what's happening up in that area.

3 We have a huge area. It goes all the
4 way to the Nevada border, part of Inyo County, as
5 well as -- I'd say Arizona, comes all the way down,
6 part of Wrightwood and part of Phelan. And we feel
7 that in that area, that we need to look at that area
8 for the common interests that we have in that area.
9 Many of the people in that area feel that many of our
10 constituents are out of the touch with many of the
11 people who have been living there for many years. As
12 you know, it's a retired community. Many of the
13 people are retired. There used to be a base there at
14 one time, at Victorville -- in Victorville, as you
15 know, George Air Force Base, and that's where my dad
16 was stationed. And many of those people that live in
17 that area are retired people, and we all have a
18 common interest.

19 Some of the areas that we pick up we
20 feel we don't need, particularly the part in Inyo
21 County area. We feel they are out of touch with many
22 of the people in the community as we vote. It is a
23 home for -- not far from us for a Cesar Chavez that
24 we have in our district. We have access to -- we
25 don't have the access to our legislators as we wish

1 to, and we would like for you to think very hard when
2 you draw the lines to make sure that you include us,
3 as well, when you're making decisions in the Inland
4 Empire because we have that connection with San
5 Bernardino area.

6 And this is my husband, Lionel.

7 MR. DEW: Good afternoon.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Good afternoon,
9 sir.

10 MR. DEW: Basically I would like to share
11 with you to give consideration for changing the 34th
12 Assembly District. As Barbara has stated, 34th
13 Assembly District consists of the San Bernardino and
14 Inyo and Kern Counties, and what we would like to do
15 is impress upon you to change that district to
16 reflect the Inland Empire for these three reasons:

17 One is public education. As you
18 already know, as your data will probably show you, no
19 voucher initiative ever passed in the Victor Valley,
20 but you can't say the same as relates to Kern County
21 or Inyo County, so it's a common interest. The
22 voting record reflects more closely to the Inland
23 Empire than it does to Kern or Inyo County as relates
24 to public education.

25 And we also feel very strongly that

1 it's one thing to have representation in office, but
2 it's another thing to have influence. We know that
3 the legislators representative of the Inland Empire
4 are far more influential than those who reside in the
5 high desert primarily for one specific reason.
6 Growth. I'm a mortgage banker. Growth occurred in
7 the Inland Empire, as well as the Victor Valley, but
8 we can't say the same as relates to Kern County or
9 Inyo County, that there is significant growth in
10 those two counties. And for that reason, we think
11 that the Victor Valley should be swung down to the
12 Inland Empire as relates to influence. That would
13 benefit all citizens within the 34th Assembly
14 District, not only economically, educationally, but
15 also socially because we find that the Victor Valley,
16 unlike Kern or Inyo County, is diverse and becomes
17 more diverse as we live. That's what we would like
18 to impress upon you.

19 I want to thank you again on behalf of
20 Barbara as well as many who share our view for the
21 opportunity to share those views with you. Thank
22 you.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you both
24 very much for taking the time to come out here, as
25 well, today.

1 Let me just double-check and see if
2 Mr. Art Garcia has come back in the room or
3 Mr. Walter Jarman.
4 MR. JARMAN: Mr. Jarman.
5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Mr. Jarman.
6 Okay. And after that I'll ask again for Mr. Roy
7 Hernandez, followed by Mr. Murray Sialla.
8 MR. JARMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
9 name is Walter Jarman, J-a-r-m-a-n, and I'm here
10 representing NOBLE, which is the National
11 Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.
12 I'm a retired member of the -- I'm a retired former
13 supervisor with the State Department of Alcoholic
14 Beverage Control and also was a CHP officer in this
15 area for many years. I'm also the economic chair and
16 the treasurer for the San Bernardino branch of the
17 NAACP. I'm a founding member of the Clinton -- soon
18 to be Bill Clinton Library and former secretary with
19 the California State College Alumni Association.
20 Chief Michael Myers called me and
21 asked me if I would represent the chapter here today;
22 however, he didn't give me any written preparation in
23 terms of our representing -- our taking their --
24 well, indicating what their position was, other than
25 verbally.

1 NOBLE's position -- well, before that,
2 let me just say this: Last evening, I was on the
3 computer, and I went up on the web page for the
4 Assembly, and I clicked on the link for redistricting
5 or reapportionment, and there was a link that
6 indicated "Find Your District." So I clicked on
7 there and plugged my street address in, and when the
8 results came back, it said, "Can't find your street.
9 Can't find your address."

10 And I panicked. I said, "Oh, my God.
11 They got me already."

12 Anyway, then I put the information in
13 in the State of California, and it came up that I was
14 in your district.

15 NOBLE's position is supportive of that
16 as stated or indicated by the inland area
17 African-American Redistricting Coalition and the San
18 Bernardino branch of the NAACP, along with the others
19 who have spoken before me, the elected officials and
20 other speakers. NOBLE feels that the concept that
21 encompasses the communities of interest is a viable
22 concept and should be followed for the current
23 redistricting effort. In conclusion, NOBLE feels
24 that all districts should be fairly and equally
25 represented at all levels of government.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
3 much, Mr. Jarman. We appreciate your taking the time
4 to be here, as well.

5 Just double-check one more time if
6 Mr. Garcia or Mr. Hernandez, and as spoken earlier,
7 and Murray Sialla, Mr. Sialla. Okay.

8 I apologize for the fact -- I know
9 that many people did, in fact, have to leave as they
10 just were not prepared to spend as long as the delays
11 required with the number of witnesses today.

12 Mr. Doug Fox.

13 MR. FOX: Good afternoon. My name is Doug
14 Fox. I'm a 50-year resident of this region of
15 Southern California.

16 Mr. Chairman and members of the
17 committee, today you have heard an enormous amount of
18 testimony regarding what western San Bernardino
19 County representatives would have you deliberate in
20 order to come to a reasonable proposal under the
21 law. You have not heard much from Riverside County
22 or Imperial County; however, I would remind you that
23 the most comprehensive and significant testimony
24 today came from Councilman Bosworth and Mayor Pro Tem
25 Pettis. As they noted, the low desert area of

1 eastern Riverside and Imperial Counties is a
2 natural. It has been a natural corridor of travel
3 and trade for centuries. It established that
4 reputation centuries before Spanish conquest. The
5 ancestors of our Native American brothers and sisters
6 were and the current population of the area reflects
7 that centuries old communities of interest.

8 The area is significantly populated by
9 those who worked to put food on our tables and a vast
10 number of them having lived at below poverty level
11 for generations. It is time that these citizens be
12 elevated. You have an opportunity to begin that
13 process. The proposal that these two civic leaders
14 have set forth makes sense. It is your opportunity
15 to effect real change for these citizens. I stand
16 before you today in compassionate support of that
17 proposal.

18 Thank you very much.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
20 much, Mr. Fox, for taking the time to be here and
21 your patience in waiting.

22 Next I have Ms. Raven Lopez-Workman.
23 I know I saw her earlier, if she's coming down. And
24 then I have Mr. Gil Navarro. Okay. And is she
25 actually -- Okay. All right. So we'll wait for just

1 a moment. And then Mr. Gil Navarro and then
2 Mr. Jesse Valenzuela, and then I'm going to go back
3 to names I already called because that is the end of
4 the names that we've submitted. The last one I had
5 was Mr. Valenzuela.

6 MS. LOPEZ-WORKMAN: I'm sorry. I was out of
7 the room.

8 My name is Raven Lopez-Workman,
9 L-o-p-e-z hyphen W-o-r-k-m-a-n. And I will be
10 quick. I'll also let you know that I did not come
11 here today intending to make any comments.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Raven, if you
13 would excuse me, I'm addressing you by first name
14 since we know one another.

15 MS. LOPEZ-WORKMAN: Yeah.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: As quick as you
17 want to be, be careful not to talk too quickly
18 because our court reporter has to keep up.

19 MS. LOPEZ-WORKMAN: Okay. I've been told I
20 have a problem with talking too fast, anyway, when I
21 want to.

22 And I'm here today not necessarily to
23 represent any particular community or any particular
24 club, although I certainly could. And as I listen to
25 all of the comments before, the history lessons we've

1 had, the ancestral lessons we've all had, and as I
2 look around the room and know, I've decided that
3 probably what I'm here for, Mr. Chairman, is to let
4 you know that I've decided that I am a personal
5 community of interest by myself. And I think that
6 there are a great number of us who are.

7 When I look to my Navajo grandmother,
8 my Irish grandmother, my Spanish father, my Italian
9 grandfather, to my evidently very short -- I tell
10 everybody I belong to the Weeble tribe. Remember
11 Weebles? Weebles wobble but they don't fall down?
12 I actually am a Weeble. For all the community of
13 interest we have here, and I look at our ancestors
14 that are in this room, I do two things, and I do
15 speak to you from there.

16 Thank you for being in the Inland
17 Empire. Thank you for acknowledging that the Inland
18 Empire goes beyond the San Bernardino County line.
19 And also I would like to say as a female, as a
20 Democrat, as an environmentalist, as a Native
21 American, as a Latina, as a mother, as a supporter of
22 so many things, it's important that we do consider
23 all of our communities of interest.

24 As you go around the state, please
25 remember that in Southern California, in the

1 Los Angeles area into here, is the largest
2 concentration of urban Indians in the entire country.
3 Not in this state alone, but in all of the states in
4 this country. The largest urban Indian population is
5 in the Los Angeles area and in Southern California.
6 And there are no districts that seem to take that
7 into consideration.

8 When you take a look at Southern
9 California alone, you see the great number of
10 reservations that are here. Where are all those
11 districts that take in that land mass that make up
12 those reservations? When we listen to the ultimate
13 redistricting history that some may have had, I'm so
14 glad that you're not here today to redistrict as they
15 did in the past, where they said to the very first
16 Americans who were here when everyone else came,
17 "We're going to redistrict you right out of your
18 land. We're going to move you to the mountains.
19 We're going to walk you a hundred miles. We're going
20 to take everything away from you and your land and
21 your base and your history and your language, your
22 religion and your bones, and we're not going to give
23 any of them back to you."

24 Just remember that, you know, you're
25 not faced with that, but by some degree, you can also

1 do that by not remembering those communities together
2 as one.

3 I just want to say I didn't bring a
4 plan with me because we haven't sat down and drawn
5 them. One think I wanted you to do, when you take a
6 look at your agenda today, we had a very excellent
7 level of folks who are involved in this redistricting
8 process, coalitions, communities, organizations,
9 ethnic groupings who have been in this process for
10 some time. Remember that you didn't see a coalition
11 put together of California Indians or even Native
12 Americans from across the country. Just because you
13 may be the newest kid on the block when it comes to
14 working inside this governmental process that is
15 this -- you know, it's very funny, the very first
16 people are the newest ones on the block, on the
17 political block. Please remember those communities.

18 And I keep advising people, you know,
19 we need to be seen and we need to be heard, we need
20 to be persistent and, most of all, we need to be here
21 and we need to be there. And we are here with you
22 and in this room -- all of our ancestors are here.
23 But we also will be there -- we will be there in the
24 hearings that you give all across the state, whether
25 we're there as part of an organizational grouping or

1 a part of any coalition, we are there.

2 Thank you for bringing that across the
3 state. Thank you for considering it behind the
4 lines. And we all know about the story of
5 redistricting and how it's done. We all know.

6 I'm just very thankful that you're
7 listening to us and that you're here today, and for
8 me to not have a prepared speech and just to kind of
9 come before you like this. I apologize to those that
10 I have offended. But more definitely, I want to
11 thank my grandmothers for telling me that you can't
12 let an opportunity go by without speaking up.

13 Thank you.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
15 much, Ms. Lopez-Workman. We appreciate your taking
16 the time to be here today.

17 And I have Mr. Gil Navarro next, and
18 then Mr. Jesse Valenzuela. And I would note that if
19 they did come back in the room that we still -- okay.
20 And we have one additional one after that, as well
21 as, if either Steve Klut, Art Garcia, Roy Hernandez,
22 or Murray Sialla are here, we will take them
23 afterwards, as well.

24 Mr. Navarro, you have the floor.

25 MR. NAVARRO: My name is Gil Navarro,

1 N-a-v-a-r-r-o. I'm from the local of MAPA, the
2 Mexican-American Political Association here in the
3 City of San Bernardino.

4 MAPA has been in existence for over 40
5 years. In fact, this August 17th and 18th up in
6 Fresno, we are going to have our state convention for
7 our new state officers. We do that every two years.

8 We are incorporated for education and
9 voter registration, and that brings to the point that
10 I'd like to read part of the federal Voting Rights
11 Act, and this is the basis of my presentation today.
12 The Voting Rights Act of 1965 imposes additional
13 requirements and procedures on state redistricting.
14 It prohibits denial or abridgement of the right to
15 vote --

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Excuse me. A
17 little slower.

18 MR. NAVARRO: Yeah. I just remembered.
19 -- of account of race, color,
20 membership in a language minority group. Ways of
21 bridging minority voting rights my include
22 fragmenting minority populations against, among
23 different districts cracking or overconcentrating
24 minorities in one or more districts Alpaci.
25 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act applies to all

1 jurisdictions. It prohibits a state from imposing
2 any standards that deprives minority group members of
3 an equal opportunity to participate in the political
4 process. Because of an amendment to the Voting
5 Rights Act, it is not necessary to prove that a
6 redistricting plan was adopted with a discriminatory
7 intent; a results test is used. If the plan has the
8 practical effect of denying effective participation
9 in the political process to minorities, it violates
10 the Act. Of course, intentional discrimination also
11 violates the Act. Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act
12 applies in jurisdictions in which a finding has been
13 made by the Justice Department according to standards
14 in the Act that minorities have been denied an
15 effective voice in the political process.

16 One of the standards set up in the Act
17 was a mathematical measure under which low voting
18 registration and turnout would result in a
19 jurisdiction being covered by Section 5.

20 Well, what MAPA's concerned with is
21 the fact that -- let's take, for instance, Fontana
22 Unified School District as an example. It's
23 70 percent Latino student body, yet we have no
24 Latinos in that school board. And that's an issue
25 because of the concentration. In essence, it should

1 be guided up by districts, but nobody has filed a
2 lawsuit against the Fontana Unified School District.

3 But looking at a larger scale and a
4 redistricting process that we're involved in now,
5 we're concerned with the existing Assembly,
6 congressional, and Senatorial districts that we have
7 in place. They're working fine, you know. The old
8 saying, it's not broken, nobody is going to have to
9 work on it. We feel the existing districts, the
10 existing lines drawn, are sufficient. I know I don't
11 speak for everyone, but there's a lot of us that love
12 Congressman Joe Baca, and there's some of us that
13 love State Senator Nell Soto. And, of course, John,
14 we love you, too, our Assemblyman. And we're happy
15 with those lines, with those districts, with those
16 seats. We worked hard doing a lot of voter
17 registration, getting to associate a constituency in
18 those districts with those individuals. Yes, two out
19 of three are Latinos but we have non-Latinos that
20 support Latino issues. We support them, also.

21 So our concern is there may be
22 individuals that want to undermine what's already in
23 place, what's already working fine. We don't want to
24 see our votes diluted. We don't want our voting
25 structure that's doing a positive impact to be

1 dismantled, undermined.

2 So, John, that's real important that
3 we preserve what we've already accomplished. It's
4 true that we have term limits and elected officials
5 come and go, but the voting constituency is set up
6 within those districts, within -- I mean, within
7 those communities, within the districts to support
8 the incumbents. So I know there's criteria of how
9 you apply the redistricting, and I think one of them
10 is incumbents. So, you know, we're real concerned
11 that we preserve that portion of the criteria that
12 will maintain the integrity, I think, in the
13 redistricting process.

14 The other thing is I'm hoping that in
15 this process there will be a day where we'll have
16 some maps that we can look at so we can see what
17 you've come up with, but we're asking to make it very
18 accessible. A lot of us don't have the Internet and
19 so forth. But I'd like to make a strong
20 recommendation that at all state assembly and -- I'm
21 sorry -- state assembly and state Senatorial offices
22 throughout California that the local constituents
23 have access to that office, to that map, whether
24 they -- and, you know, I'm not going to ask for the
25 whole map of California. I'm interested in those

1 three -- the congressional 62nd -- I'm sorry, the
2 Assembly 62nd and the 42nd and, I believe, 36th. So
3 if you can make that accessible to us, then we'll be
4 more involved in the process to the ultimate
5 decision-making because we want to influence you --
6 influence you if there's something that's not -- that
7 we feel is accurate or taken into our consideration.

8 So with that, I'm hoping that the
9 integrity of this process will be maintained, and
10 that those decisions will be made in the best
11 interests of those constituents, those communities,
12 and specifically those incumbents; and I'm hoping
13 that there's nobody there within the committee that's
14 looking to undermine the Latino vote.

15 Thank you.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
17 much, Mr. Navarro, for taking the time to join us
18 today, as well.

19 And I have Mr. Jesse Valenzuela next,
20 and after Mr. Valenzuela, I will go to Ms. Inez
21 Cardozo-Freeman, and then we'll double-check one more
22 time and make sure that some of the folks whose names
23 we called out and didn't answer haven't come back in
24 the room; and I believe that will be it.

25 Mr. Valenzuela, you're up.

1 MR. VALENZUELA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
2 forgot my glasses so I have to read it up closely.

3 My name is Jesse Valenzuela,
4 V-a-l-e-n-z-u-e-l-a, and I live in the City of
5 Banning. I'm making this presentation on the behalf
6 of the San Gorgonio Pass Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
7 and Trade Association where I am the treasurer and
8 chairperson on the special projects committee. I am
9 also a member of the 65th AD committee, the San
10 Gorgonio Pass Democratic Club, the Woman's Past
11 Democratic Club, a member of MAPA and et cetera. I
12 have been involved in local, state, and national
13 public policy formulation, shaping, building,
14 combining, assembling throughout my entire adult
15 life.

16 This hearing is a very special moment
17 in the history of the Inland Empire. For too many
18 years, the Latino community has been a strong part of
19 the political mosaic of local, state, and national
20 government in the 65th Assembly District, 31st
21 Senatorial District, and the 44th Congressional
22 District.

23 Every 10 years, after the release of
24 the newly collected census data, the California
25 legislature begins its process of redistricting for

1 the expectation that every California resident will
2 be fairly and equally represented in various
3 legislative branches. The San Gorgonio Pass Hispanic
4 Chamber of Commerce and Trade Association strongly
5 supports the concept of one person, one vote. We
6 urge the committee to enforce the Voting Rights Act
7 and to not divide the communities or dilute our
8 community's votes. Respect our communities and our
9 communities of interest that exist in the region and
10 do not split them up into multiple districts.

11 Furthermore, please ensure that our
12 testimony is meaningful by truly considering our
13 presentations when community redraws the district
14 lines. Today several community and political leaders
15 from throughout the Inland Empire and the San
16 Gorgonio Pass will be requesting and have requested
17 that giant steps be taken towards rectifying
18 political inequities by adopting a redistricting plan
19 that includes the inclusion of many communities of
20 interest.

21 Our proposed redistricting plans must
22 be predicated on avoiding gerrymandering any one
23 district and relying on sound redistricting criteria
24 of one person, one vote, and that districts be
25 compact, continuous, and meet the guidelines of the

1 spirit of the Voting Rights Act, in particular as it
2 applies to communities of interest.

3 Specifically, the proposed
4 redistricting plans must take into consideration not
5 only the concerns of the Latino community, but also
6 of other minority communities. Every effort must be
7 made to not dilute any minority community. In
8 addition, consideration must be given to the concerns
9 of the Latino and Latino incumbents while emphasizing
10 that the proposed redistricting plans are not geared
11 for the advancement of any one politician or
12 political interest.

13 Finally, we are optimistic this
14 community and the California legislature will fully
15 realize that a historical record for political
16 representation in the Inland Empire and San Gorgonio
17 Pass. We believe that in the end the community will
18 fully agree with the need to retain our historical
19 communities of interest, will respect the need for
20 community of strong leadership for economic stability
21 and steady growth.

22 Let us hope that today all of you as
23 members of the community will likewise take a giant
24 step towards the empowerment of the Latino community
25 and other minorities in the 65th Assembly District,

1 31st Senatorial District, and 44th Congressional
2 District.

3 What Latinos and other minorities are
4 requesting is to simply be allowed to have access and
5 participation in the policies that affect every
6 person in the Inland Empire and the San Gorgonio
7 Pass. Make the promise of democracy reality for all
8 the residents of this great region.

9 I want to thank the members of the
10 panel for allowing me to make this presentation today
11 on behalf of the San Gorgonio Pass Hispanic Chamber
12 of Commerce and Trade Association, and the Hispanic
13 Chamber of Commerce welcomes the opportunity in the
14 future to work with each member of the committee on
15 issues that are important to the San Gorgonio Pass,
16 the Inland Empire, and California.

17 "Muchas gracias."

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: "Con mucho
19 gusto." And thank you very much for appearing before
20 us today, Mr. Valenzuela.

21 Next I have Ms. Inez Cardozo-Freeman.

22 And, Ms. Cardozo-Freeman, apparently somewhere in
23 the paperwork shuffle here going on, there had
24 been -- you filled out a form and somehow we don't
25 have it. So if you could just put your name,

1 address, and phone number on one of those forms for
2 us again so we have it for the record, we would
3 appreciate it.

4 MS. CARDOZO-FREEMAN: I shall.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you.

6 MS. CARDOZO-FREEMAN: I feel rather humble
7 coming before you this evening -- this late afternoon
8 after hearing all the eloquent speeches, but I have
9 been urged to present my point of view.

10 I am not very much well versed in
11 politics. I am a retired university professor. I
12 have a Ph.D. in the culture of Mexican people. All
13 my academic life, I have advocated for Latino
14 students, and I am disturbed that there is nothing
15 happening in the great valleys of -- in the great
16 Coachella Valley with regard to helping young Native
17 American and Chicanos become educated so that they
18 can become doctors and lawyers and to go on to do the
19 things that they need to do. And for this reason, I
20 feel very strongly that the plan that Mr. Pettis and
21 Mr. Bosworth have set forth are superb plans to help
22 give power to the people of the valley and -- both
23 the valley and the Imperial -- both valleys, the
24 Imperial and Riverside.

25 I myself am a Latina of Portuguese

1 heritage, but my heart is Chicano because I grew up
2 with Chicano children. My father was a farmer in
3 Kern County, and I can remember traveling with him to
4 Imperial County to visit other farms and so on. And
5 I remember the humble people who came to harvest the
6 crops that my father, on his farm, grew. And my
7 heart has always been with trying to do something
8 because I am the only person in my family who even
9 went to high school, and I ended up with a Ph.D. And
10 when I retired from the university, the Ohio State
11 University, I was named professor emeritus for my
12 work. And I think if only by the grace of God was I
13 able to go to school because someone urged me to and
14 stood by me. And there isn't enough of that here in
15 this area of California. We need to address the
16 needs of both Native American and Latino young
17 people, and that's all I have to say.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you very
19 much for taking the time to be here, ma'am.

20 Let me run through a few names here
21 one more time because I want to make sure that we
22 didn't skip them. Steve Klut, I don't see in the
23 room, former member of the Assembly, for those not
24 familiar with him. Art Garcia did not come back.
25 Okay. Roy Hernandez from Loma Linda? Murray Sialla

1 from Chino apparently had to leave.

2 Before we close, let me note a couple
3 quick things, I did have one person who did leave --
4 left a very, very brief statement, handwritten here,
5 Eloise Gomez Reyes, unfortunately, had to leave, and
6 has just a very brief statement.

7 It just says, "Grand Terrace
8 historically was a part of the City of
9 Colton. As a Grand Terrace resident, I
10 and other city residents have been a part
11 of the two cities over the years. Grand
12 Terrace is linked with Colton as a
13 community of interest because of our
14 shared history. Our educational
15 governing body governed both Grand
16 Terrace and Colton. There is one high
17 school for both cities, and thus it
18 shared educational base."

19 By the way, I'm going to leave a copy
20 for our stenographer. I see the sparks there.

21 "Therefore, it is requested that GT,
22 which is Grand Terrace, be kept in the
23 congressional, Senatorial, and Assembly
24 Districts with the City of Colton."

25 And we will provide that in writing.

1 I believe that's all the testimony. I
2 want to thank you, everyone, for being here. I want
3 to remind you that the information that we've
4 collected today, along with that at the other six
5 hearings so far, and the one in Orange County, which
6 we will be conducting next week, will all be put into
7 the process here as we attempt to determine
8 communities of interest.

9 Now, as you've heard, some of these
10 communities of interest that some people want are
11 different than other people's; and it's going to be
12 challenging, obviously, for us to attempt to put
13 together a plan that respects as greatly as possible
14 as many communities of interest as possible. We're
15 committed to trying to do it.

16 I appreciate the fact that you took
17 the time to spend a day when you could have been
18 doing something for your personal enjoyment and,
19 instead, came down here to participate and help in
20 determining a very important -- very important
21 political governmental decision -- because this
22 involves both -- that we will be affected by for the
23 decade to come. Your dedication, your patience, your
24 civil mindedness is very much appreciated.

25 Assemblyman Leonard, is there anything

1 else?

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LEONARD: You said it all.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER LONGVILLE: Thank you again,
4 and this hearing is adjourned.

5 (Whereupon, at 4:37 P.M., the HEARING
6 was adjourned.)

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1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2) ss
3 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)
4 I, Vickie Blair, Certified Shorthand
5 Reporter, number 8940, RPR-CRR, for the State of
6 California, do hereby certify;
7 That the foregoing transcript is a true
8 record of the hearing.
9 I hereby certify that I am not interested
10 in the event of the action.
11 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my
12 name this 21st day of July, 2001.
13
14 -----
15 Certified Shorthand Reporter for
16 the State of California
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